

Diagnostic Semen Analysis (Liverpool)

What is semen analysis?

Semen analysis is the gold-standard test performed to assess the fertility potential of a male. Several important parameters are measured which include semen volume, sperm concentration, sperm motility and sperm shape. All parameters are compared to reference ranges set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The total number of spermatozoa per ejaculate, sperm concentration and the extent of progressive sperm motility are related to pregnancy rates. Motility assessment is usually performed using computer-aided sperm analysis (CASA).

How do I get an appointment?

You will need to be referred to us by a clinician. Once we have received your referral we will send you out a pack to the address provided to us. This pack will contain instructions, a production form, sample pot and appointment information. These instructions must be read in advance of attempting to produce your sample.

If you cannot make the appointment we have sent you please contact the laboratory on 0151 702 4214 in advance to reschedule. We are unable to accept any samples without an appointment. Appointments for diagnostic semen analysis and post-vasectomy semen analysis are available Monday to Friday.

How can I produce the sample?

Samples should be collected by masturbation. Do not produce your sample using lubrication, condoms or through the withdrawal method. If you are unable to masturbate, special non-toxic condoms designed specifically for the collection of semen samples are available for use at home. Please ask in advance of your appointment if this is something you require.

How do I collect the sample?

- In order to obtain an optimum sample you are required to abstain from any sexual activity (masturbation or intercourse) for a minimum of 2-3 days, but no more than 7 days, before your appointment date.
- Produce your sample by masturbation into the non-toxic sterile pot provided in your pack. Your pot must be labelled with your name, DOB and hospital identification number.
- Please do not attempt to produce your sample into any other type of specimen pot.
- Please ensure you attempt to collect all of the semen produced.
- Once the sample has been collected please ensure the lid is screwed on tightly and place the pot inside the sealable bag provided.
- Ensure you bring the fully completed request form with you to the hospital. We cannot accept your sample until this has been completed correctly.

Where can I produce the sample?

You may produce your sample at home if you can deliver it to the laboratory at your allotted appointment time and **within one hour of collection**. Whilst travelling from home it is important you keep the sample close to the body as sperm are sensitive to extremes of temperature. If preferable, your partner may deliver your sample and completed production form.

If you cannot deliver your sample to the laboratory within one hour of ejaculation or would rather produce your sample on site we have private, sound-proof production rooms available for use.

Where do I need to go?

The Lewis-Jones Andrology Department at the Liverpool Women's Hospital (L8 7SS) is situated on the second floor. Please follow signs for the Hewitt Fertility Centre and our waiting room is situated next door.

How do I get my results?

Your results will be sent back to your referring clinician approximately 14 days after your semen analysis. Unfortunately, these results cannot be given to you by our laboratory staff.

Repeat tests

If you cannot produce your sample or have an incomplete collection you will be asked to repeat the test after a further 2-3 days abstinence. If one or more of your sperm parameters are reported below the WHO reference range your clinician may request you repeat the test. This is to ensure your results are representative of a typical ejaculate.

What if I have a poor result?

Discovering you have abnormal sperm may come as a shock and leave you feeling anxious. We have counsellors and patient support groups available at our Liverpool and Knutsford centres if you would like to discuss your feelings relating to this diagnosis.

(<https://www.thehewittfertilitycentre.org.uk/support-and-advice/>)

You should always bear in mind that advances in fertility treatment mean that you may still be able to conceive. You can discuss your options and next steps with your clinician.

Research and waste

The portion of your sample that is left over after diagnostic semen analysis is disposed of by incineration. It will not be stored for treatment purposes. In some cases, it may be used by us for training or research.

Queries

Please feel free to contact the laboratory on 0151 702 4214 if you require any further information about this test.

Quality

The Lewis-Jones Andrology department at the Hewitt Fertility Centre has provided a dedicated Andrology service for over 10 years. We were the first Andrology laboratory to be accredited for quality and competence by the UK Accreditation Scheme (UKAS). Our laboratory is also enrolled in the UK National External Quality Assurance Scheme (UK NEQAS) which helps to ensure clinical laboratory test results are accurate, reliable and comparable wherever they are produced.

Feedback

We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care or treatment please speak to a member of staff

The Lewis-Jones Andrology Department,
Hewitt Fertility Centre,
Liverpool Women's Hospital
Crown Street,
L8 7SS
0151 702 4214

<https://www.thehewittfertilitycentre.org.uk>

This leaflet can be made available in different formats on request. If you would like to make any suggestions or comments about the content of this leaflet, then please contact the Patient Experience Team on 0151 702 4353 or by email at pals@lwh.nhs.uk

Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust
Crown Street
Liverpool
L8 7SS

Tel: 0151 708 9988

Issue Date: 08/06/2022

Reference: Gyn/2022-343-v1

Review Date: 08/06/2025

© Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust