

BRITISH MEN SNAPPING UP THE SNIP

- **Searches for vasectomies in the UK up 164% in the past year, while vasectomy reversals almost double (98%) in 12 months**
- **The number of women looking for sterilisation up by almost half (49%)**
- **Clinics say the most common reason for vasectomy reversals is following a second marriage – some get requests for reversals from men in their sixties**

Monday 4 August 2014 – Enquiries for vasectomies in the UK has shot up by a whopping 164% in the past 12 months, according to new research from private healthcare search engine, WhatClinic.com.

Vasectomy reversals are also on the rise, with searches almost doubling (98%) in the past 12 months. Although vasectomies are relatively quick and pain free procedures carried out under local anesthetic, vasectomy reversals can take up to three hours under a general anesthetic and recovery time is usually seven to ten days.

WhatClinic.com surveyed surgeons and found that the most common age of men opting for a vasectomy is 41-45^[1], although one in three (34%) are under 35. The youngest request for a vasectomy came from an 18-year-old and the oldest was well into his seventies. When it comes to vasectomy reversals, the youngest patient treated by the surgeons polled was 21 and the oldest 66.

Nearly all (98%) of the surgeons asked cited the most common reason for vasectomy reversals as patients wanting to start a family with a new partner, following a divorce or separation.

Vasectomies are available free of charge on the NHS, although waiting lists can be several months which is why some men opt to go private. Private vasectomies cost an average of £515, while vasectomy reversals cost £2,582 – and aren't available on the NHS.

Outside the UK, the Republic of Ireland has seen the largest number of searches for vasectomies in the past 12 months – up more than a third on last year (35%) – followed by India and Australia. For vasectomy reversals, India tops the tables and has seen a 31% increase, followed by Spain and Mexico.

Amongst women in the UK, tubal ligation, also known as sterilisation, has seen a 49% increase in the past 12 months, while traffic across clinics globally has almost tripled (173%). This procedure requires the patient to undergo a general anesthetic before two incisions are made to allow the fallopian tubes to be severed or clamped. Tubal ligation is 99% effective and patients can usually return home from hospital on the same day.

Caelen King, CEO of [WhatClinic.com](https://www.whatclinic.com), comments: “There has been a significant increase in enquiries for vasectomies over the past year, as more men opt for this a permanent form of contraception.

“Vasectomy reversals are available but they are not always effective, so think carefully before you go under the knife. Although it might be the right decision now, you never know what might happen further down the line so it is not a decision to be made lightly.

“Do your research and find the option that is right for you and your partner. If you do decide to go ahead with the operation, make sure you find a clinic you are comfortable with and always read patient reviews.”

– ENDS –

Notes to Editors:

WhatClinic.com conducted an opinion poll of surgeons working at over 148 clinics in 36 different countries that offer vasectomies and vasectomy reversals

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About WhatClinic.com:

WhatClinic.com is a clinic comparison site that lists over 100,000 clinics globally. In 2013 15.7 million people visited the site to find, compare and book treatments across a wide range of elective, self-pay medical treatments. WhatClinic.com's mission is to give the patient, as an empowered consumer, access to all the information they need to make an informed choice, including price, availability and reviews. WhatClinic.com was founded in 2007 by tech entrepreneur Caelen King, and is in operation in over 127 countries.