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The Sources of Carnitine in Human Semen

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A study was initiated to determine the sources of carnitine in the male reproductive system. Free and total carnitine was measured in a group of healthy men before and after vasectomy. Each individual served as his own control. The results show that postvasectomy semen contains about 52% as much total carnitine and 40% as much free carnitine as prevasectomy samples. The data indicate that, in addition to the epididymis, the seminal vesicles and/or vas deferens are major contributors of carnitine in human semen.

Key words: carnitine, seminal vesicles, epididymis, semen, vasectomy

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