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## JOURNAL ARTICLE

# Clinical experience with an artificial spermatocele

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Artificial spermatoceles were implanted into three patients with congenital absence of the vas. In each case, the testicular biopsy demonstrated normal spermatogenesis, and the dilated epididymal tubule was packed with spermatozoa. The ciliated epididymal mucosa appeared normal despite the tubular dilatation. The spermatoceles were constructed of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene, and they were microsurgically implanted over the cut end of the epididymis. The grafts were aspirated monthly for up to six months, and the aspirates containing spermatozoa were used for artificial insemination. Spermatozoa were consistently retrieved from each patient, but no pregnancies have resulted. The most obvious finding was that the spermatozoa lacked motility. In the discussion, other problems related to artificial spermatoceles are reviewed, including epididymal development and sperm maturation, aspiration techniques, and sperm storage.

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