



Journal of Andrology, Vol 7, Issue 5 285-291, Copyright © 1986 by The American Society of Andrology

## JOURNAL ARTICLE

# The incidence of spermatic granulomas and their relation to testis weight after vasectomy and vasovasostomy in Lewis rats

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The occurrence of spermatic granulomas of the vas deferens was studied in Lewis rats at intervals up to 7 months after vasectomy or vasectomy followed 3 months later by vasovasostomy. The incidence of granuloma progressed with time to involve one or both tracts in 100% of vasectomized rats. In addition, the majority of animals developed new granulomas after vasovasostomy, even though fluid flow through the reconnected vas deferens was demonstrated in vitro. When individual tracts were analyzed, the weight of the testis was related to ipsilateral spermatic granuloma formation in both vasectomy and vasovasostomy groups at 3 and 4 months after initial operation. Testes were small in the absence of a granuloma but similar to those of sham-operated rats if a granuloma was present. The possible protective effect of spermatic granuloma formation on the testis is discussed.

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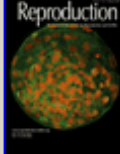
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