

Vasectomy Referrals

I am often asked to make a referral to a urologist for a vasectomy for sterilization. I am not able to make such referrals. I will try to explain the reasons for this policy.

As a Roman Catholic I have come to realize and believe that sterilization (either vasectomy for men or tubal ligation for women) is immoral. Our Church teaches that any form of contraception or sterilization is displeasing to God and contrary to His will. Men and women are given to one another in marriage to be fruitful and bear children. Sterilization denies the gift of new life and is intrinsically evil.

You may also be Roman Catholic but not have realized that vasectomy is immoral and contrary to Church teaching. I would urge you to speak with your priest for further information. You can also consult the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2366-2372). I recognize that you may not be Catholic, and may disagree with what I believe. You may think that there is nothing wrong with vasectomy. You may feel that “you’ve had enough children”. I respect your right to make choices for yourself. I would hope that you would do the same for me.

For me to refer you or any patient for a vasectomy would be to participate in doing something that I believe is immoral. This is why I can not refer you for a vasectomy. I hope that you will reconsider this issue and choose not to go ahead. Yet, if you should decide that you still want a vasectomy you can call your insurance company and explain to them that your family physician is unable to make a referral for a vasectomy. You can request that the insurance company waive the requirement for a referral for this procedure.

If you would like to discuss this further, just let me know.

Sincerely,

Jane Doe, M.D.