

## A Male patient with a seminal fluid analysis report

Your patient is an actor but you are NOT. Do what you could do as a third year student. Try to gather knowledge in advance.

Your patient is waiting to discuss about his Seminal fluid analysis report.

You don't know anything about this patient. You are going to meet him for the first time.

The seminal fluid analysis report indicates a sperm count of 5 million per ml. The patient wants to clarify the report and would like to know what further actions to be taken.

### **Seminal fluid analysis**

Seminal fluid analysis is done to assess the male sperm producing ability as part of the investigation of a sub-fertile couple.

The sample collection is important as improper collection methods will result in incorrect results.

The patient will have to abstain from intercourse for 3-5 days prior to collection of the sample. It has to be collected by masturbation and ideally be produced in the lab to be examined within 30 minutes of collection.

The normal values are assessed according to WHO criteria.

If any abnormal values are detected the sample has to be repeated before any action.

#### **Interpreting a semen analysis**

Parameter	Normal	Comments if abnormal
Volume	2-5 ml	If low, check if collection was incomplete ("missed the pot")
Count	$> 20 \times 10^6/\text{ml}$	Repeat sample. Check that no acute illness occurred in two months before sample. Lifestyle advice on smoking, alcohol, and drugs. If $< 10 \times 10^6/\text{ml}$ in vitro fertilisation or intracytoplasmic sperm injection. Refer early
Motility	$> 50\%$ progressively motile $> 25\%$ rapidly progressive	Repeat sample; refer early
Morphology	$> 15\%$ normal shape	Repeat sample; refer early