

SCROTAL SCRIBBLES

THE NEWSLETTER OF [WWW.DONTFIXIT.ORG](http://www.dontfixit.org)

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The Good News...

You will find a number of recent updates to the Vasectomy Forum page at www.dontfixit.org with the correspondence received and responses up through the end of 2002 from numerous people. We're working to bring all of the postings up to date on the web site, but correspondence from an individual is always responded to as soon as possible. However, it may take some time to be posted to the web site. So if there are questions to ask or things to share with others, please continue to email them to sadsacks@dontfixit.org or call 805/459-8844. Personal requests for contact with others or information needed can be sent as a special message to the entire mailing list if needed, i.e. if you need to find a medical provider in your area, or are being advised of a particular form of treatment.

In case you haven't seen it yet, a video clip from a TV news story regarding Post-Vasectomy Pain Syndrome has been added to the web site. This is the first in what will hopefully be a long chain of media presentations, including plans for a documentary length program. Let us know what resources you may know of in the television production arena, and if you want to offer an interview about your experience. This is one of the best ways to communicate the issues to more of the people who need to hear it.

The Really Good News...

The book If It Works, Don't Fix It: What Every Man Should Know Before Having A Vasectomy by Kevin Hauber is finally available from the publisher in printed form. This has been a long-awaited event, and will help to make information available to those persons debating whether or not to have the procedure as well as those already experiencing pain and problems because of their vasectomies.

The book is available from the publisher on a print-on-demand basis over the Internet at <http://www.bbotw.com/description.asp?ISBN=0-7414-1800-2> or you can order the book by phone at 877-BUY BOOK (877-289-2665), priced at \$18.95 and promised to be printed and shipped within two days of ordering. As always, if you cannot afford to buy the book, email Kevin at kevin@dontfixit.org and a version of the book on disk will be mailed to you at no charge.

An e-book version of the text will be out as soon as the publisher makes this technology available for added convenience. It has been our experience that when people need this information, it is a time sensitive issue.

And the Bad News...

Kevin's lawsuit against the urologist who did his original vasectomy was withdrawn from court without compensation at the end of 2003. In the three-and-a-half years the case floundered in the court system, an Appellate Court in California came down with a ruling changing the rules of evidence in the case.

The new standard set would require a urologist in the local area to testify in court that failing to disclose the possibility of causing significant nerve damage or other injury leading to post-vasectomy pain syndrome is beneath a normal standard of care in presenting and performing the procedure. While this is no great stretch of the imagination for us normal folk, the fact of the matter was that no urologist would offer this testimony. Several of the doctors who had previously offered opinions in this regard backed out as the trial approached. Interestingly, many of them had the same malpractice insurance company (and lawyer) as the urologist being sued.

Other men have reported similar outcomes from their attempts at litigation to aid them through post-vasectomy woes and expenses. The situation is a very difficult one. With the strangle hold that the insurance companies and the medical profession have on the legal system, recourse for even gross errors is limited.

The moral of the story is that when you go to a doctor and take any drug prescribed, or undergo any surgery or other form of treatment, you are doing so at your own risk, and are quite literally putting your life in the doctor's hands. Consider that the next time some significant medical treatment is recommended. *You, not the doctor*, get to live with the outcome, even if the procedure is "simple," as vasectomy is commonly claimed to be.

Good Health to You!



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