

TUBAL REVERSAL

*At the
Southeastern Fertility Center*

Tubal reversal is a safe and highly effective operation which has been performed successfully for more than 20 years. We at the Southeastern Fertility Center are proud of our exceptionally high pregnancy rates following this procedure, and our regional reputation as *the* referral center for this delicate microsurgical procedure.

Tubal reversal is an exacting operation that requires an experienced microsurgeon for optimal results. We have performed hundreds of these operations, with success rates now approaching 80%.

This operation is typically performed on an outpatient basis, using a very small (2-3 in) bikini-type incision. The operation typically takes 2 ½ - 3 hours to perform. Numbing medicine is injected into each tissue layer after the operation so that the patient is comfortable enough to leave the surgery center several hours post-operatively. Recovery time is shorter because of the small incision size, but your ability to return to normal activities or work will vary. Patients that are significantly overweight may not be able to have their operation performed on an outpatient basis. The reason for this is that the abdominal wall may be too thick to utilize a very small incision. If a large incision must be made, an overnight hospital stay may be required. Exceptions to this postoperative hospitalization have been made if around-the-clock nursing care is available to a patient for 24 hours. Unfortunately, there is no way to determine the likelihood of being able to perform the operation through a small incision as an outpatient without performing a physical exam in a woman who is overweight. The procedure is just as safe and successful when performed through a standard larger incision, but recovery time will be greater.

Patients considering this operation should be aware, in *rare* cases, too much of the tube may have been removed to perform this operation. At other times, severe scar tissue or other abnormalities could prevent the successful performance of this operation. These factors are not discovered until the time of the operation, but are encountered in only about 2% of women.

Factor which influence success rates:

The Southeastern Fertility Center has had outstanding success rates after reversing most types of tubal sterilization procedures. This includes burning, cutting, tying, banding, and clipping. The amount of tube which has been removed or destroyed may influence the success rate, since at least four centimeters of tube is needed to achieve optimal pregnancy rates. However, we have seen pregnancies in women with tubes as short as two centimeters. We have been able to perform the procedure successfully in women who have been told by their physician that reversal was not an option due to insufficient tubal length.

Time since the tubal ligation was performed may play a minor role in success rates, but we have seen successful pregnancies even in patients who have had their tubes tied for 15-20 years.

The age of the patient is also significant. We have had successful pregnancies in women well over the age of 40, but fertility generally decreases at the age of 40, and expectation for pregnancy must be appropriately adjusted. Finally, any concurrent infertility factors, such as absent or infrequent ovulation or low sperm counts, could lower the chance of a successful pregnancy after this operation.

Per-operative testing:

It is helpful to have a copy of the operative note from the tubal ligation operation as well as a pathology report on the tubal segments which were removed, if applicable. To rule out significant problems with the sperm, a semen analysis on the husband is also recommended. A hysterosalpingogram (HSG), or x-ray of the uterus and attached tubal segment, is sometimes performed as well. Those traveling to the Southeastern Fertility Center from outside the area may have these procedures performed by their local physician and bring them at the time of their initial visit.

Financial Considerations:

Surgery for reversal of sterilization is covered by some, but not most insurance policies. Total cost for the operation at the time of this writing is \$6,450 if performed as an outpatient. This includes fees to the Southeastern Fertility Center, the Surgery Center, and Anesthesia. There are additional charges for any other procedures performed at the same time, such as cyst removal, fibroid removal, etc. If in-patient hospitalization is necessary the total charges will be higher and dependent on the length of stay in the hospital. All fees are subject to change without notice. Please call our office to verify current charges.

In order to schedule your operation, a non-refundable \$500 deposit must be paid in advance. The remainder is due one day prior to surgery. A discount of \$800 is given to a patient who refers one other patient for this operation if both operations are performed on the same day.

Is tubal reversal the only option?

No. In Vitro Fertilization is usually an option as well. The Southeastern Fertility Center has the highest IVF pregnancy rate in the state of Tennessee, and ranks among the top programs in the nation. However, tubal reversal generally results in a somewhat higher pregnancy rate at a lower cost than IVF, and so is usually the preferred option. Couples with a history of very low sperm counts, significant pelvic scarring or endometriosis, or other problems may be better served by IVF.

Please call our office for additional information on IVF. A physician referral is not required for an appointment. Prospective patients may call our office for an appointment. Our policy is to treat only married couples.

Information for travelers:

Patients traveling from outside the East Tennessee region may want to fly into Knoxville's McGhee-Tyson Airport. The Tri-cities and Chattanooga airports are each approximately a 90-minute drive. Nashville International Airport is a two and one half-hour drive.

We require you to be seen in the office the day prior to surgery, and you must stay in town the night following the operation. Some local hotels convenient to the surgery center are listed below. All of these hotels are located approximately 10 minutes from the Southeastern Fertility Center.

Airport Hilton	Phone # 865-970-4300	\$89.00 per night
Days Inn	Phone # 865-521-5000	\$39.00 per night
Hampton Inn	Phone # 865-983-1101	\$72.00 per night
Holiday Inn Downtown	Phone # 865-522-2800	\$60.00 per night

Some of the prices are above are discounted rates for UT Medical Center patients, so please identify yourself as such when calling. Rates are subject to change without notice.

Finally:

Your decision of a physician and Center for performance of your Tubal Reversal is a crucial one. Allow the Southeastern Fertility Center to help you fulfill your dreams!