

Online Access to Male Infertility Care: The Challenge of Finding a Reproductive Urologist (PD25-08)

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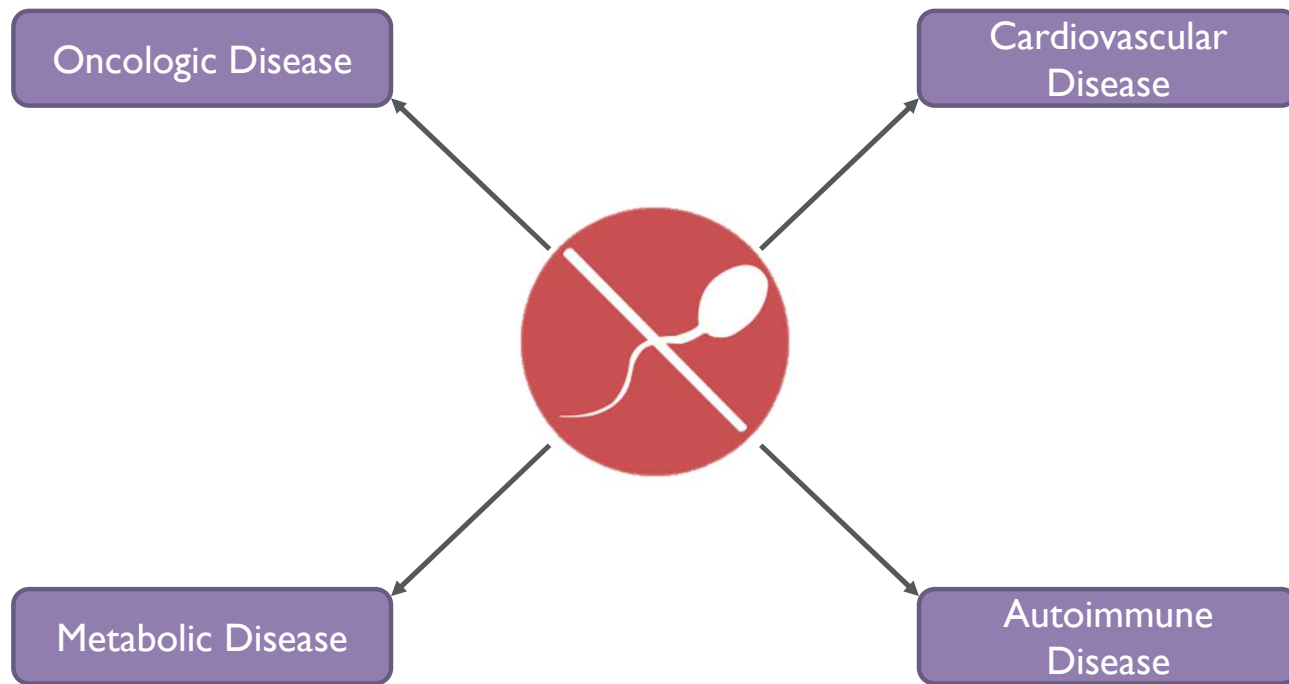
Disclosures

- None

Epidemiology of Male Factor Infertility

- Infertility affects **8-15%** of couples worldwide¹
- **40-50%** of infertile couples have a male factor¹
- **18%** of couples undergoing fertility testing did not have male factor evaluation²

Male Infertility is a Window to Overall Health



Barriers to Access for Male Infertility Care

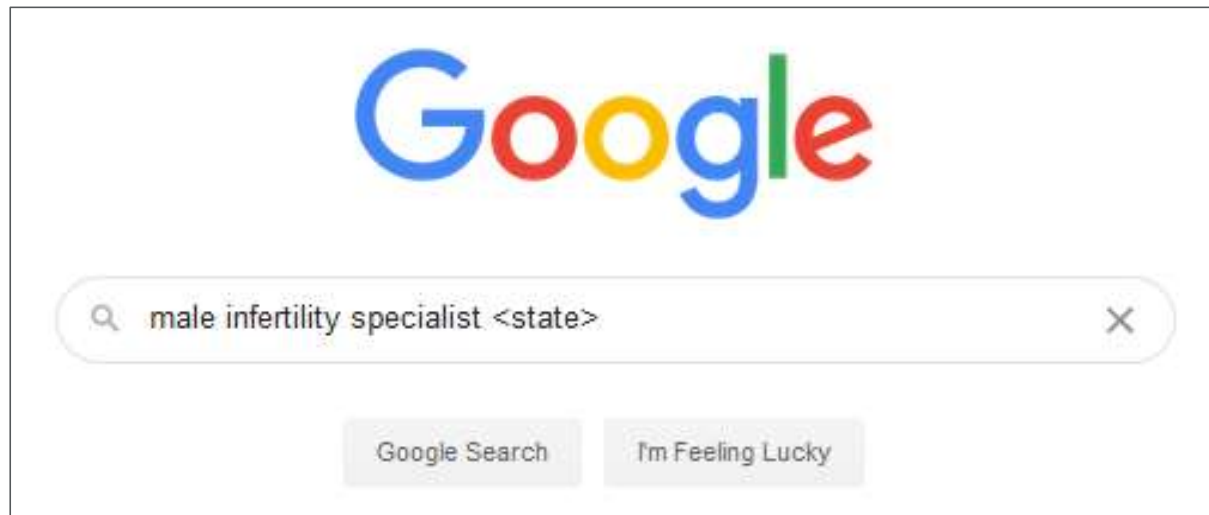
Mehta et al. (2016) define six barriers:

- Epidemiologic
- **Geographic**
- Government and health policy
- Knowledge
- Socioeconomic
- Financial

When searching for an online male infertility provider, how often will patients find reproductive urologists?

When directed to a non-urologist provider, how often did websites mention standard of care surgical procedures for the treatment of male factor infertility?

Methods



Each search result was evaluated for

- Provider type (OBGYN vs Urology)
- Level of training of the urologist
- Information provided on male infertility
- Male infertility procedures offered

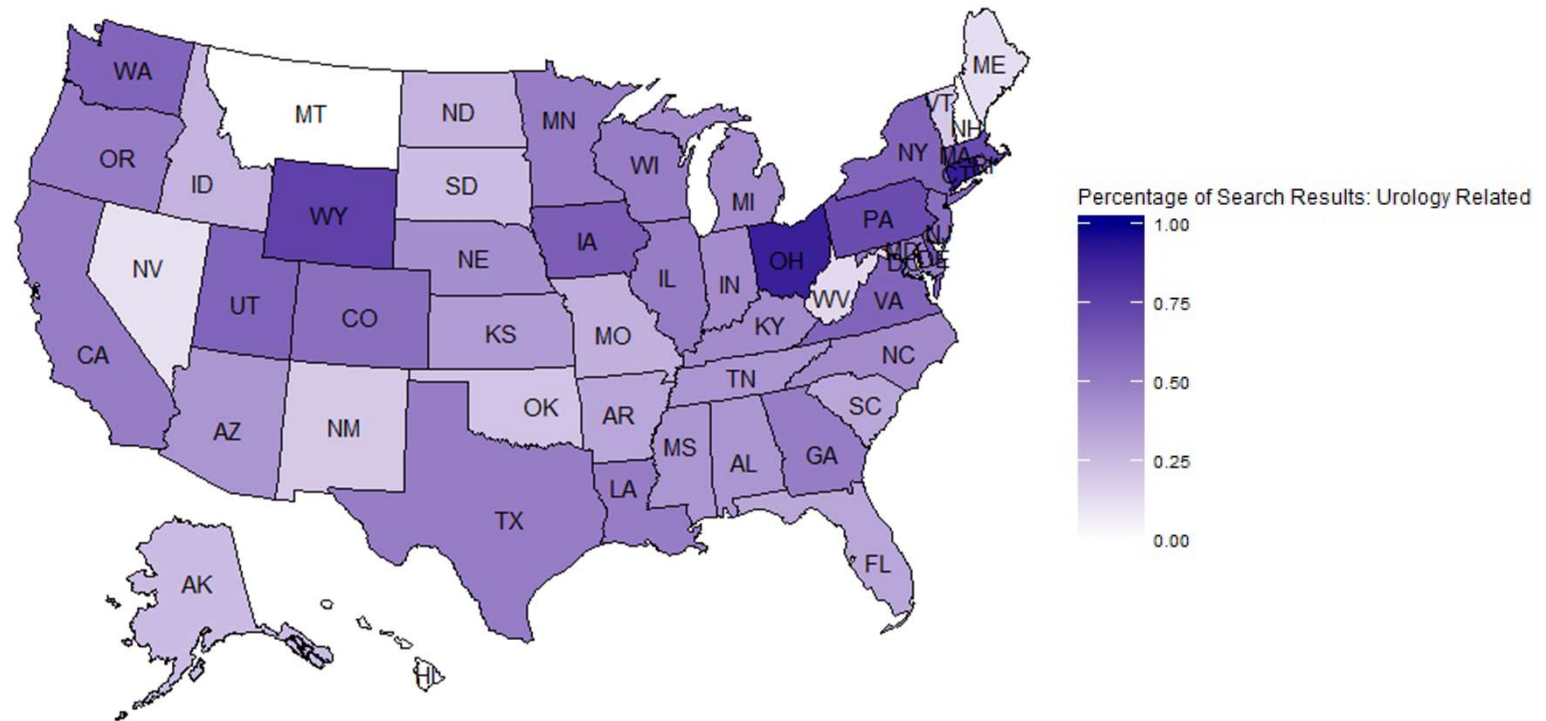
Any purely informational websites without listed providers were excluded

Most Search Results for Male Infertility Providers Did Not Lead to a Urologist

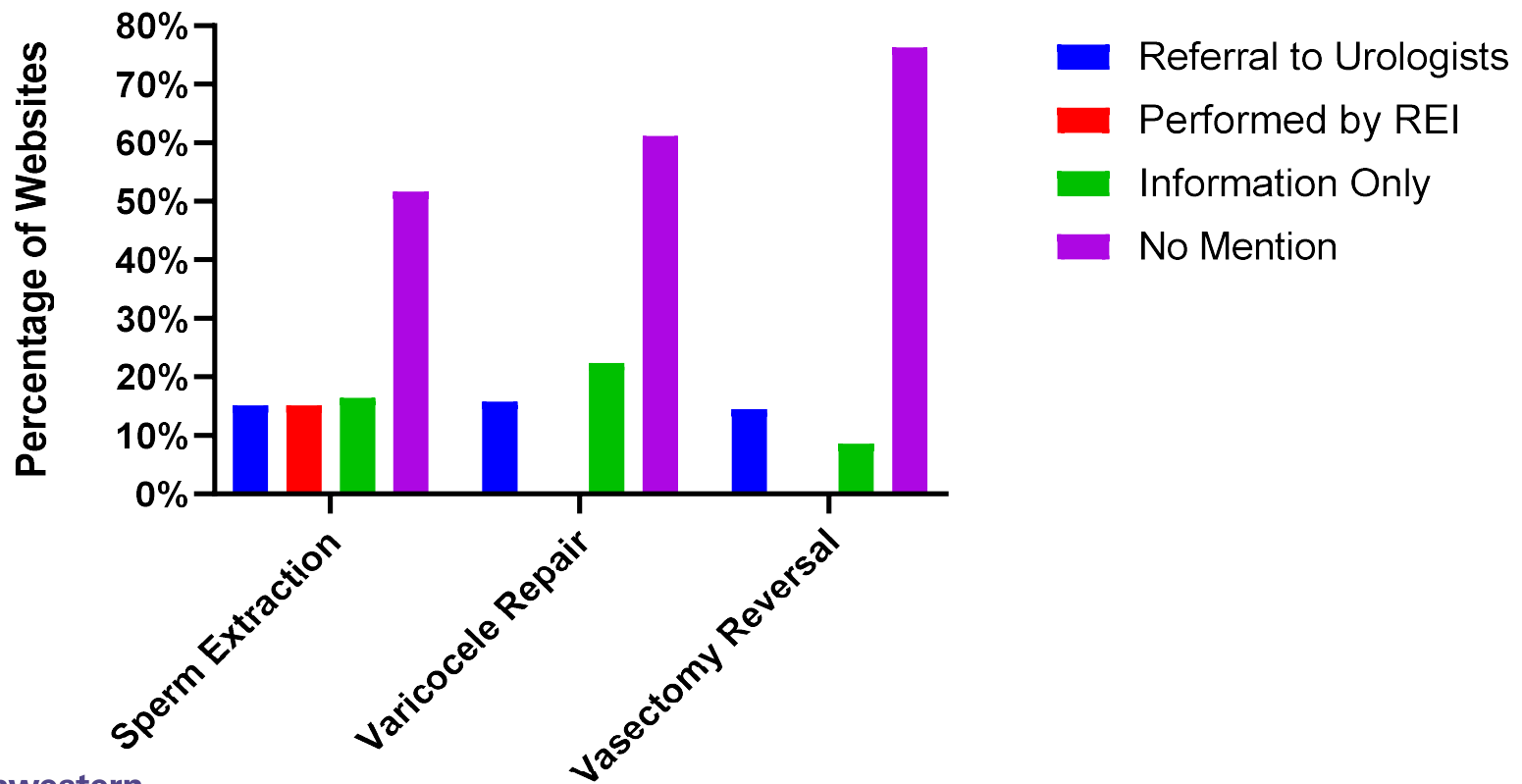
Total Google Results	419
Type of Google Result	
OB/GYN	229 (54.7%)
Urology	190 (45.3%)
SSMR Urologist Identified on Website	97 (23.2%)
Andrology Fellowship-Trained Urologist Identified on Website	153 (36.5%)
Average Search Position	
OB/GYN related result	5 (3-8)
Urology related result	4 (2-8)
Fellowship-trained Urologist Result	4 (2-7)
SSMR Urologist Result	4 (2-7)

Wilcoxon rank-sum
OB/GYN vs. Urology ($p = 0.01$)

Most Search Results for Male Infertility Providers Did Not Lead to a Urologist



OB/GYN Websites Lack Important Information Regarding Male Infertility Procedures



Procedures Offered by Fellowship Trained vs. Non-fellowship Trained Urologists

	Andrology Fellowship Trained Urologist (n = 138)	Non-Andrology Fellowship Trained Urologist (n = 62)	p-value
Procedures Offered			
Sperm Extraction	137 (99%)	56 (90%)	<0.01
Varicocele Repair	136 (98%)	56 (90%)	<0.01
Vasectomy Reversal	136 (98%)	50 (81%)	<0.01



Conclusions

- Finding male infertility providers online is difficult
- OB/GYN websites often lack sufficient or accurate information on surgery for male infertility
- Future efforts should aim to increase the online presence of male reproductive urologists, which will help to overcome barriers to access