

# Does the filling state of the seminal vesicles influence sexual desire?

<b>Submission date</b> 03/04/2014	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
		<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 09/05/2014	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 24/07/2020	<b>Condition category</b> Urological and Genital Diseases	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data
		<input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

The seminal vesicles are part of the male inner genitals. It is not known if the seminal vesicles have an impact on sexual interest, i.e. if full seminal vesicles increase sexual interest. This would potentially make sense from a biological/behavioural point of view. The aim of this study is to find out if there is any specific brain area that changes its activity in relation to the filling status of the seminal vesicles. The detection of such a specific brain area would suggest that the filling status of the seminal vesicles changes the activity in the brain.

### Who can participate?

Heterosexual men between the ages of 20 and 30

### What does the study involve?

On day 1 in the morning, participants provide a blood sample for analysis of sex hormone levels, a conventional MRI scan of the pelvis to assess the size of the seminal vesicles, and a functional MRI of the brain. After these examinations, they masturbate in order to empty their seminal vesicles. On day 2 in the morning, they undergo the same examinations.

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

The detection of specific brain areas would potentially have a clinical impact in men undergoing radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer, which nowadays is usually performed with removal of both seminal vesicles. If a relationship is found between seminal vesicle filling status, specific brain areas and sexual interest and confirmed by further clinical studies, the standard removal of the seminal vesicles during radical prostatectomy could be re-thought in order to potentially help to preserve sexual interest. There are no risks involved in this study.

### Where is the study run from?

University Hospital Bern (Switzerland)

### When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

May 2014 to April 2015

Who is funding the study?  
Max and Hedwig Niedermaier Foundation and University Hospital Bern (Switzerland)

Who is the main contact?  
Dr Frédéric Birkhäuser  
frederic.birkhaeuser@insel.ch

## Contact information

**Type(s)**  
Scientific

**Contact name**  
Dr Frédéric Birkhäuser

**Contact details**  
Freiburgstrasse 4  
Bern  
Switzerland  
3010  
-  
frederic.birkhaeuser@insel.ch

## Additional identifiers

**EudraCT/CTIS number**

**IRAS number**

**ClinicalTrials.gov number**

**Secondary identifying numbers**  
N/A

## Study information

**Scientific Title**  
Does the filling state of the seminal vesicles influence sexual desire? A pilot study

**Study objectives**  
Filling state of seminal vesicles is an independent factor for the intensity of sexual desire, influencing sexual arousal in healthy men.

**Ethics approval required**  
Old ethics approval format

**Ethics approval(s)**  
Kantonale Ethikkommission Bern (KEK), 05/09/2014, ref: 005/14

**Study design**

Interventional study

**Primary study design**

Interventional

**Secondary study design**

Non randomised study

**Study setting(s)**

Hospital

**Study type(s)**

Other

**Participant information sheet**

Not available in web format, please use the contact details to request a patient information sheet

**Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

The physiological role of healthy seminal vesicles on sexual desire

**Interventions**

The five participants all undergo the same intervention. On day 1 in the morning, they first undergo a blood analysis (5 min), thereafter they undergo a conventional MRI of the pelvis and a functional MRI of the brain (40 min). After these examinations, they masturbate in order to empty their seminal vesicles. On day 2 in the morning, they undergo exactly the same examinations.

**Intervention Type**

Other

**Phase**

Not Applicable

**Primary outcome measure**

The effect of seminal vesicle filling state on cortical activation and sexual arousal investigated by fMRI, which would be reflected by a reduced activation of specific regions in fMRI of the brain on study after ejaculation.

**Secondary outcome measures**

1. Changes in sexual arousal score with full/empty seminal vesicles
2. Changes of volume in seminal vesicles during first (before ejaculation) and second (after ejaculation) MRI examination

**Overall study start date**

01/05/2014

**Completion date**

30/04/2015

# Eligibility

## Key inclusion criteria

1. Men between the age of 20 and 30
2. Heterosexuality
3. Written informed consent
4. Ejaculation abstinence of 3-5 days before first fMRI examination

## Participant type(s)

Patient

## Age group

Adult

## Sex

Male

## Target number of participants

5

## Key exclusion criteria

1. Erectile dysfunction
2. Claustrophobia
3. Depression
4. Status post brain trauma
5. Severely reduced visibility
6. Medication intake with possible side effects on libido

## Date of first enrolment

01/05/2014

## Date of final enrolment

30/04/2015

# Locations

## Countries of recruitment

Switzerland

## Study participating centre

University Hospital Bern

Bern

Switzerland

3010

# Sponsor information

**Organisation**

University Hospital Bern (Switzerland)

**Sponsor details**

Freiburgstrasse 4

Bern

Switzerland

3010

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urology@insel.ch

**Sponsor type**

Hospital/treatment centre

**Website**

<http://www.insel.ch/en/>

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/01q9sj412>

**Funder(s)****Funder type**

Charity

**Funder Name**

Max and Hedwig Niedermaier Foundation (Switzerland)

**Funder Name**

University Hospital Bern (Switzerland)

**Results and Publications****Publication and dissemination plan**

Not provided at time of registration

**Intention to publish date****Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan****IPD sharing plan summary**

Not provided at time of registration