

# Clinical Diagnostic Procedure (do you really have prostatitis?)

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A Clinical Diagnostic Procedure,  
that may be of use to prostatitis sufferers and their doctors.

jrj

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Samples which do not liquefy need additional treatment such as exposure to bromelin, to make the sample amenable to analysis (6, 25). The sample should be well mixed in the original container. Incomplete mixing is probably a major contributor to errors in determining sperm concentration.

## Consistency

The consistency, also called viscosity, of the liquefied sample can be estimated by gentle aspiration into a 5-ml pipette and then allowing the semen to drop by gravity and observing the length of the thread formed. A normal sample leaves the needle as small discrete drops, while in cases of abnormal consistency the drop will form a thread of >2 cm (6, 25). Another method to estimate consistency does not use needles and is performed by introducing a glass rod into the sample and observing the thread that forms on withdrawal of the rod. Again the thread should not exceed 2 cm (6, 25). Increased consistency has the same clinical meaning as abnormal liquefaction, and may be related to prostate dysfunction resulting from chronic inflammation (6).

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