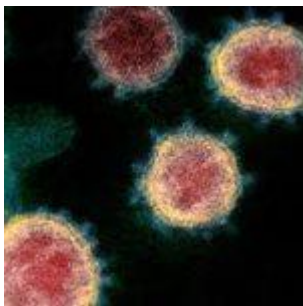


SARS-CoV-2 found in semen.



To date severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has been detected in stool, gastrointestinal tract, saliva, and urine samples. A cohort study published in JAMA Network Open found that SARS-CoV-2 can be present in the semen of patients with COVID-19 and may still be detected in the semen of recovering patients. It is proposed that because the imperfect blood-testes/deferens/epididymis barrier, SARS-CoV-2 could seed to the male reproductive tract, especially in the presence of systemic local inflammation. The authors state that “Even if the virus cannot replicate in the; male reproductive system, it may persist, possibly resulting from the privileged immunity of testes.”

Table. Clinical Characteristics of Patients With Positive Test Results for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 in Semen

| Patient ^a | Approximate age, y ^a | Time since onset of symptoms, d | Time since hospitalization, d | Time since clinical recovery, d | Presence of preexisting disease | Other comorbidity |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 20s | 8 | 2 | NA ^b | No | Coronary heart disease, Hypertension |
| 2 | 20s | 10 | 6 | NA ^b | No | Coronary heart disease |
| 3 | 30s | 11 | 5 | NA ^b | No | No |
| 4 | 40s | 9 | 8 | NA ^b | No | No |
| 5 | 50s | 11 | 10 | 2 | Yes | No |
| 6 | 50s | 16 | 13 | 3 | No | Chronic bronchitis |

Abbreviation: NA, not applicable.

^b Patient was still in the acute stage of infection.

^a For the purpose of anonymity, patients are identified by number and their ages are given as approximate.

Source: Li et al., 2020. JAMA Netw Open

Journal Article: Li et al., 2020. [Clinical Characteristics and Results of Semen Tests Among Men With Coronavirus Disease 2019](#). JAMA Network Open

Article By Clive Gray