



1. Because mailed samples are not fresh and do not provide an opportunity to evaluate motility, we are 10 times as "strict" in our criteria for sterility. That is, we clear men to discontinue contraception only when there are fewer than 10,000 sperm per ml, in contrast to criteria for fresh specimen which is fewer than 100,000 sperm per ml.
2. Even if a few sperm are seen, but fewer than 10,000 per ml in a mailed specimen, we feel comfortable clearing the patient because in over 30 years of evaluating fresh semen specimens, we have NEVER seen a case of fewer than 10,000 sperm per ml with even one sperm being motile.