

Viagra could be harmful to fertility

February 25 2008

A study to be published in the British medical journal Fertility and Sterility suggests that Viagra could harm men's fertility.

The research, led by Queen's University consultant Gynecologist Dr. David Glenn, suggests that the drug can damage sperm and prevent fertilization, The Telegraph reported Sunday.

The findings state that recreational use by young men could damage their chances of starting a family.

Glenn's team bathed sperm samples in weak solution of Viagra and then compared the treated sperm to standard samples.

They found that Viagra made sperm more active, but also damaged its acrosome, which contains enzymes needed to break down the membrane surrounding a woman's egg to allow sperm to fertilize it.

"Essentially the acrosome breaks open too early in sperm that has been exposed to Viagra. The sperm cannot get to the egg and so it is not fertilized," said Glenn.

Copyright 2008 by United Press International

Citation: Viagra could be harmful to fertility (2008, February 25) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2008-02-viagra-fertility.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.