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Remote-controlled sperm 'tap' may offer reversible vasectomy

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London, January 29 (ANI): Scientists at the University of Adelaide in Australia are developing a radio-controlled contraceptive implant to control the flow of sperm from a man's testicles.

The device will be placed inside the vas deferens, the duct that carries sperm from each testicle to the penis.

It will block the flow of sperm cells when closed, and allow them to pass again upon being opened. The device will be controlled via a remote control.

The developers of the silicone-polymer valve say that it may be a switchable alternative to vasectomy, which cannot be reliably reversed and often leaves some men to later regret their decision.

“Since it is flexible, the polymer either contracts or expands as a result, and this movement allows the valve to be opened or closed as needed,” New Scientist magazine quoted team leader Said Al-Sarawi as saying.

“It will be like turning a TV on and off with a remote control, except that the remote will probably be locked away in your local doctor's office to safeguard against accidental pregnancy or potential misuse of the device,” added team founder Derek Abbott.

With a view to securing the device against accidental activation, its makers are producing it in such a manner that each valve will respond only to a radio-frequency signal with a unique code.



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