Varicocele ligation

- A varicocele is a collection of swollen, distended veins around the testis (testicle). The swelling is caused by leaking valves in the testicular vein that allow blood to flow back to the scrotum on standing.

- Although occasionally present on both sides, varicoceles usually occur on the left side.

- In some men a varicocele causes testicular discomfort, that is often worse after prolonged standing or at the end of the day. Varicoceles also cause a small rise in temperature around the testis and this can affect the sperm and reduce a man’s fertility.

- Ligation of a varicocele is an operation to remove these veins. A small incision is made on the left side of the abdomen, through which a piece of testicular vein is removed. The two ends of the divided vein are tied carefully using self-dissolving stitches.

- The operation is usually performed as a day-case procedure under a light general anaesthetic.

- After the operation, you may feel some mild discomfort but this can be controlled with painkillers.

- Most patients who have reduced fertility because of a varicocele will benefit from this procedure.