Dear Alice,

My wife and I are recently married. Before marriage, we always used condoms during sex. Now my wife is on birth control and we no longer use condoms. Neither of us have ever had sex with another person and we want to know if it is normal for all or most of my semen to come back out of my wife after removing my penis. We make a dash for the bathroom immediately after sex and my wife has said she even has semen dripping out the next morning on most occasions. Thanks!

Answer

Dear Reader,

Semen is no exception to the rule, "What goes up, must come down." That is, if a man ejaculates into a woman's vagina without using a condom, semen (as well as vaginal fluids) trickle out. While it may be practical to make a dash for the bathroom, if you have sex in bed, you can always let the fluids drip onto the sheets. You can also have a soft towel nearby, which you can use to sensuously dry each other after sex. Either way, the two of you can stay where you are, allowing yourselves to enjoy one another and relax — you'll just have some extra things to add to the wash.

If your partner is uncomfortable with the dripping feeling after intercourse, she can use a mini-pad (typically used during menstruation) on her underwear to absorb the semen. Or, she can prevent the seeping sensation by using condoms. As an alternative to latex, you can try polyurethane female condoms for a change, or lambskin condoms (although they do not protect against STIs) as they provide a more natural sensation. Condoms can be especially useful for the times when your partner doesn't want to experience this wetness after having sex.

If you and your partner plan on becoming pregnant in the future, you can check out the archived question Successful sperm. This answer will discuss how to maximize the ejaculated sperm, minimize the leakage, and increase the chances of conception.

Alice!

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