

HEALTH EDUCATION
LIBRARY FOR PEOPLE



World's largest FREE health Education library for people..

We help patients to become better patients! We can help you understand your health and medical problems better so you can get better care in partnership with your Doctor.

OUR VISION

We think patients are the largest untapped healthcare resource and that Information therapy is the most Powerful Medicine !

OUR GOALS

1. Encouraging health insurance companies to invest in patient education.
2. Advocating information therapy.
3. Setting up a national network of patient education centers.
4. Developing patient educational materials in Indian Languages for the web.

For more information on this subject:
Ask the Librarian : Free Answers to any Health Questions !!

<http://www.healthlibrary.com/information.htm>

For More Info: ASK A LIBRARIAN



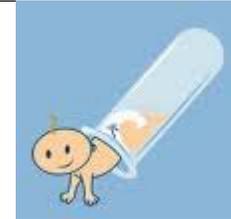
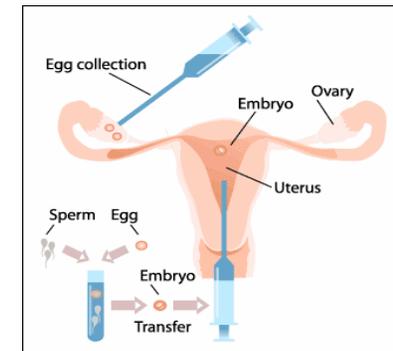
Health Education Library For People

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HEALTH EDUCATION LIBRARY FOR PEOPLE

IVF – In Vitro Fertilisation



IVF-Treatment

**LET'S HELP
ERADICATE
IGNORANCE**

In Vitro Fertilisation- Treatment

Normally, an egg and sperm are fertilized inside a woman's body. If the fertilized egg attaches to the lining of the womb and continues to grow, a baby is born about 9 months later. This process is called natural or unassisted conception.



IVF is a form of assisted reproductive technology (ART). This means special medical techniques are used to help a woman become pregnant. IVF has been successfully used since 1978. It is most often tried when other, less expensive fertility techniques have failed.

There are five basic steps to IVF:

Step 1: Stimulation, also called super ovulation

Medicines, commonly called fertility drugs, are given to the woman to boost her egg production. During this step, the woman will have regular trans-vaginal ultrasounds to examine the ovaries and blood tests to check hormone levels.

Step 2: Egg retrieval

A minor surgery, called follicular aspiration, is done to remove the eggs from the woman's body. The woman will be given medicines so she does not feel pain during the procedure. Using ultrasound images as a guide, the health care provider inserts a thin needle through the vagina and into the ovary and sacs (follicles) containing the eggs. The needle is connected to a



suction device, which pulls the eggs and fluid out of each follicle, one at a time. The procedure is repeated for the other ovary. In rare cases, a pelvic laparoscopy may be needed to remove the eggs.

If a woman does not or cannot produce any eggs, donated eggs may be used.

Step 3: Insemination and Fertilization

The man's sperm is placed together with the best quality eggs and stored in an environmentally controlled chamber. The mixing of the sperm and egg is called insemination. The sperm usually enters (fertilizes) an egg a few hours after insemination. If the doctor thinks the chance of fertilization is low, the laboratory staff may directly inject the sperm into the egg. This is called intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI). Many fertility programs routinely do ICSI on some of the eggs even if everything is normal.

Step 4: Embryo culture

When the fertilized egg divides, it becomes an embryo. Laboratory staff will regularly check the embryo to make sure it is growing properly. Within about 5 days, a normal embryo has several cells that are actively dividing.

Couples who have a high risk of passing a genetic (hereditary) disorder to a child may consider pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD). The procedure is done about 3 -4 days after fertilization. Laboratory scientists remove a single cell from each embryo and screen the material for specific genetic disorders. This helps the parents decide which embryos to implant, which decreases the chance of passing a disorder onto a child.

Step 5: Embryo transfer

Embryos are placed into the woman's womb 3 - 5 days after egg retrieval and fertilization. The procedure is done in the doctor's office while the woman is awake. The doctor inserts a thin tube (catheter) containing the embryos into the woman's vagina, through the cervix, and up into the womb. If an embryo sticks to (implants) in the lining of the womb and grows, pregnancy results.



More than one embryo may be placed into the womb at the same time, which can lead to twins, triplets, or more. The exact number of embryos transferred is a complex issue that depends on many factors, especially the woman's age. Unused embryos may be frozen and implanted or donated at a later date.

Why the Procedure is Performed

IVF is done to help a woman become pregnant. It is used to treat many causes of infertility, including:

Advanced age of the woman,
Damaged or blocked fallopian tubes,
Endometriosis, Male factor infertility,
including decreased sperm count and blockage, Unexplained infertility.

