

ADDITIONAL TREATMENT OPTIONS



EMBRYO CRYOPRESERVATION

This procedure allows couples the opportunity to limit the number of embryos transferred to the uterus and to freeze remaining embryos for later use. Cryopreservation may reduce the number of stimulations and retrievals necessary to achieve a pregnancy. It is important to note that not all embryos will be selected for freezing. Only those embryos that are viable and reach the blastocyst cell stage will be chosen for this procedure.

ICSI

Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) is currently the most successful procedure to treat male infertility. During ICSI, a single sperm is injected directly into an egg to achieve fertilization.

ASSISTED HATCHING

Early human embryos develop within an outer covering called a zona pellucida. Before the embryo can implant in the uterus, the embryo must break through this covering. In some cases, it appears that human embryos sometimes lack the ability to do this. In an attempt to overcome this inability, a small opening is created artificially in the zona pellucida just before the embryo is transferred to the uterus in selected cases.

PGD

Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis is a technique combining the recent significant advances in molecular genetics and assisted reproductive technology. PGD allows physicians to identify various genetic diseases in the embryo prior to implantation, that is, before the pregnancy is established. It is of special value for those who are at risk of having children with serious genetic problems. A couple known to be at risk for having a child with a severe genetic disease undergoes IVF where several pre-embryos are produced. These embryos have 1-2 cells removed when they reach the 8-cell stage. These cells are then tested to determine which pre-embryos are affected with the disease and which are not affected. Unaffected embryos are subsequently placed in the uterus to establish a pregnancy. PGD is a procedure technically demanding and very complex, which requires special skills. Because of the difficulty of the procedure, PGD is available in very few infertility centers.

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