



Infertility: Education Advocacy Support

1310 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144-1779

Business Office: 617/623-1156

HelpLine: 617-623-0744, FAX: 617/623-0252

Web site: www.resolve.org

QUESTIONS TO ASK
About Micromanipulation (#7)

by Diane N. Clapp, BSN, RN
Medical Information Director, National RESOLVE

In an effort to enhance fertilization or increase embryo implantation rates, micromanipulation techniques may be used. Assisted hatching and intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) are the most common micromanipulation techniques used.

- ! What types of micromanipulation techniques does the clinic offer?
- ! Does the lab working with the IVF clinic have a MD or board certified PhD also called "HCLD" which stands for high-complexity clinical laboratories director?
- ! Are there requirements that patients have to fulfill before being accepted as a micromanipulation candidate, such as a history of failed IVF cycles?

ICSI

- ! If the clinic does intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), what is the lowest count, morphology or motility range that they will work with?
- ! Does the clinic suggest that men with severe male factor have a chromosome test to evaluate for abnormalities on the Y chromosome before doing the ICSI procedure?
- ! How long has the clinic done ICSI?
- ! Will the clinic work with frozen sperm, if needed?
- ! If the clinic does ICSI, what is the percentage of oocytes that are damaged by the procedure?
- ! Does the clinic prescribe antibiotics or prednisone for a few days at the time of embryo transfer?
- ! What is the clinical pregnancy rate per egg retrieval and per embryo transfer for ICSI cycles?
- ! What is the clinic's miscarriage rate for ICSI patients?
- ! Does the clinic freeze extra embryos resulting from ICSI? If so, what is their current pregnancy rate per frozen embryo transfer?
- ! What is the cost of the ICSI procedure over and above the cost for the IVF procedure?
- ! Does health insurance cover any portion of the cost?
- ! Is there someone on the clinic staff to help answer insurance related questions? If so, who is that?

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- ! Does the clinic require that amniocentesis or CVS (chronic villi sampling) be done if a pregnancy occurs? If so, do they recommend a specific diagnostic lab or facility?

ASSISTED HATCHING

- § How long has the clinic been doing assisted hatching?
- § What technique does the clinic use to make the tiny opening in the embryo=s wall?
- § Will the clinic freeze embryos that have had assisted hatching?
- § Will the clinic do assisted hatching on frozen embryos prior to transfer?
- § Does the clinic prescribe antibiotics and/or steroids (prednisone) at the time of transfer?
- § What is the cost of assisted hatching?
- § Does insurance cover any of the cost?

Further information on this topic is available through RESOLVE fact sheets. For a publications order form, please contact the local chapter or National RESOLVE Office at 1310 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144-1731 or 617/623-0744.

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