

## **Andrology Solutions: IUI**

In a natural cycle, intercourse normally results in many millions of sperm being deposited in the vagina, with only a few hundred ever being able to find their way through the cervix, up the womb and into the fallopian tubes to meet the one egg that has just been ovulated. However, IUI ensures that a large number of sperm are placed as near as possible to the fallopian tubes, thus maximising the chances of pregnancy.

Our IUI package offers a very easy and efficient service, whilst ensuring a caring and positive experience for patients. We have comfortable facilities at Andrology Solutions where you will be asked to produce a semen sample in a room specifically designed and allocated for this purpose. When it is time for your partner's treatment, she can lie down and relax in comfortable surroundings in preparation for the insemination and subsequent to it. A member of our staff is always available as a chaperone and witness.

### ***Insemination***

The procedure is timed to coincide with ovulation. It may be performed during the fertile time in a natural cycle, or more often in conjunction with ovulation induction (stimulated cycle). Because the womb is a very sterile environment, unlike the vagina, the sperm have to be washed from the semen before they are inserted.

Sperm are prepared in our laboratory prior to insemination. Semen preparation aids in the removal of seminal plasma, cells, debris and immotile and abnormal sperm, allowing the resulting sperm preparation to recruit a population of highly motile sperm. This purified motile sperm preparation will be washed and then drawn up into fine plastic tubing (catheter).

Insemination can be carried out by your partner's own doctor at our premises, or by one of our doctors at Andrology Solutions.

### **Who can benefit from IUI?**

- if there are female anatomical problems
- for men who suffer from premature ejaculation or impotence
- for men and women who are unable to have intercourse due to psychological distress
- couples with unexplained infertility, especially when they have not fallen pregnant with clomiphene treatment alone
- men with immunological infertility (not recommended in severe cases i.e. 80% binding or more in the MAR test)
- women who have cervical mucus that is hostile to sperm



# ANDROLOGY SOLUTIONS

**Dedicated to male fertility**

- men whose semen parameters are slightly outside of the normal range
- couples who are geographically apart from each other for extended periods of time

Your partner's tubes **must not be** blocked for this treatment to be effective

## **How successful is IUI?**

- studies have shown that compared with timed intercourse alone, IUI significantly improves your fertility.
- the chance of a pregnancy with IUI is about 5%-15% per treatment cycle
- the vast majority of pregnancies will occur during the first three treatment cycles.
- pregnancy rates are dependent on the woman's age and the cause of infertility

## **Advantages**

- this form of treatment may be more acceptable than IVF within certain cultures as conception occurs inside the body as it would naturally
- the advantages of this form of therapy are that it is less invasive and expensive than other assisted reproductive technologies.
- IUI combined with ovulation induction with gonadotrophins has been the assisted reproductive technology of choice for many years for treating subfertile couples with patent fallopian tubes

## **Disadvantages**

- occasionally, uterine pain and mild "shock" results from treatment
- the success rate is low compared with other more invasive forms of treatment such as IVF
- there is a risk of multiple pregnancy with a stimulated cycle