



Consent: In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer

We wish to conceive a child by means of the technique known as in vitro fertilization (IVF) and embryo transfer (ET). Although this is an established treatment, we understand that there is no guarantee that a successful pregnancy will result.

Specific risks associated with the IVF and ET procedure include but are not limited to:

1. An increased risk of multiple gestation: This occurs in approximately 40% of all pregnancies resulting from IVF.
2. Low birth weight infants: There is at least one report of low birth weight being 2-6 times more common in babies born from IVF compared to those conceived naturally.
3. Congenital anomalies: These are structural abnormalities of the body at birth. There is at least one report of a two-fold increase in the rate of congenital anomalies in babies born from IVF compared to those conceived naturally.
4. Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome (OHSS): There is a risk of this disorder occurring in up to 8% of all patients, although it rarely results in hospitalization and prolonged treatment. However, severe OHSS can and does occasionally occur, and could result in lengthy hospitalization, careful treatment, and dangers of blood clot formation, kidney damage, liver damage, and even death. We will monitor you closely throughout your treatment cycle to minimize this risk, and will inform you if we believe you are at extraordinary risk for OHSS.
5. Infection of the uterus, ovaries, or pelvis and abdomen, possibly resulting in antibiotic treatment, hospitalization, surgery, or loss of future fertility. This is rare.
6. Bleeding at the time of the procedure to retrieve eggs, resulting in discomfort and possibly surgery to correct the problem. This is rare.
7. Failure to conceive.
8. Failure to maintain a pregnancy once it is conceived.
9. Failure of the sperm to fertilize the eggs.
10. Failure of embryos to reach the appropriate stage of development to allow an embryo transfer.

The growth and ripening of multiple oocytes (eggs) is accomplished using one or more hormone treatments. Risks resulting from these medications include but are not limited to:

1. Bruising
2. Discomfort
3. Infection at the injection site
4. Ovarian cancer: there are several reports linking ovarian cancer and fertility drugs, although the estimated risk is small. Conversely, most reports have failed to find an association between the two.

A procedure known as intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) may be recommended to you. While this procedure guarantees a sperm will be placed inside each mature egg, there is no guarantee that fertilization will occur in these eggs. The procedure carries a risk of damage to the egg of about 7%. There are several reports of increased rates of congenital anomalies with ICSI, including imprinting disorders and hypospadias. However, these disorders are either very rare (imprinting disorders) or inconsistently shown to be linked (hypospadias).

A procedure known as assisted hatching may be recommended to you. This is generally reserved for women who are older, have had multiple prior IVF failures, have low quality embryos, or have noticeably thick shells around the embryos. Risks of this procedure include a very small chance of damage to the egg, as well as possibly decreasing the chance of pregnancy.

We understand that problems may occur in the delivery of IVF services. These can include but are not limited to:

1. Adverse reactions to drugs used for stimulation, egg retrieval, embryo transfer, or maintenance of hormone levels after transfer.
2. Infection of the incubating eggs or embryos
3. Loss of eggs or embryos in their manipulation and transfer.

Finally, we understand the financial commitment associated with undergoing IVF and related procedures. We agree to fulfill this commitment regardless of the results of this series of procedures.

We understand the above risks of IVF and embryo transfer, understand the potential benefits, and wish to proceed.

Signature of patient

Date

Print Name

Signature of partner

Date

Print Name

Signature of person obtaining consent

Date
