

Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI)

Ovarian Stimulation

A) Stimulation
The ovaries are stimulated with medication to promote the growth of follicles containing the eggs.



Control
The response of the ovaries is monitored with ultrasounds and / or blood tests, to control the size and quantity of follicles.

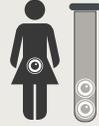


Egg Release
To assist with the final maturation of the egg and loosening of the egg from the follicle wall, an injection of Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin (hCG) - the trigger - is administered.



Egg Retrieval

B) Egg Retrieval
The egg retrieval is performed 35-36 hours after 'the trigger' under ultrasound guidance, and takes place while you are sedated.



Fertilisation

C) Sperm Selection
The more morphologically normal and motile sperm are selected for insemination.



D) Insemination
Involves the injection of a single sperm directly into a mature egg.

ICSI

E) Fertilisation
The dishes are placed in an incubator and checked for fertilisation 12-24 hours after insemination.

F) Culture
Grow in lab for 2-5 days.



Embryo Transfer

G) Embryo Transfer
The embryo chosen for transfer is loaded into a transfer catheter which is passed through the cervix into the uterus, and gently released. Generally, only one embryo is transferred, in exceptional cases two.

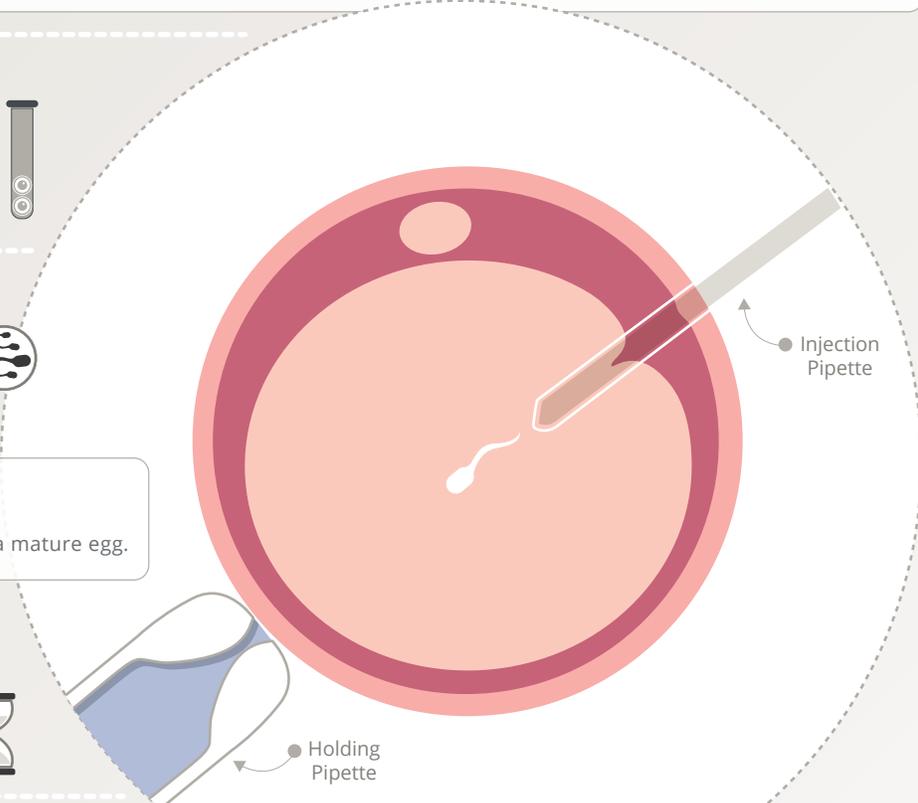


H) Vitrification
The good quality embryos that are not transferred are frozen and stored. Frozen embryos can be used in subsequent cycles if the first cycle is not successful.

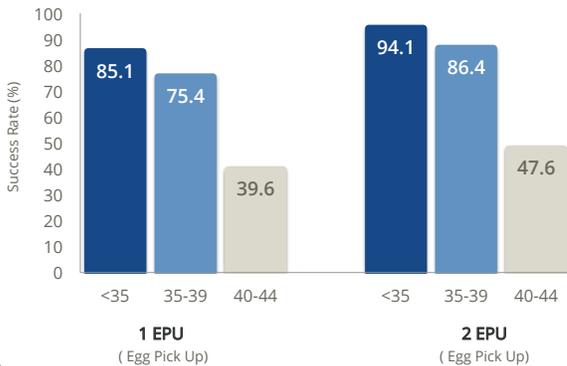


Luteal Phase & Pregnancy Test

The Luteal Phase is the two week period between embryo transfer and the pregnancy test. You will be encouraged to limit your activity for 24 hours after the embryo transfer. Your pregnancy blood test will be approximately 14 days after embryo transfer.



Cumulative Pregnancy Rates by Female Age



Success Rates

The clinical pregnancy rates achieved using ICSI are similar to those of standard IVF and vary with the age of the woman. The graph shows cumulative pregnancy results for patients who had day 5 single embryo transfers and at least one blastocyst frozen. Success rates help to give you an indication of your chances of achieving a pregnancy, but are not specific to you as an individual. Our fertility specialist will

give you a personalised assessment of your likelihood of conceiving. At City Fertility Centre an average of 70 to 80% of mature eggs will fertilise normally. Some eggs may be damaged by the injection process (up to 2%), whereas others may fertilise abnormally. More than 90% of couples undergoing ICSI will have at least one embryo to replace. Even with ICSI, there is a very small chance that none of the eggs will fertilise.