

UNDERSTANDING

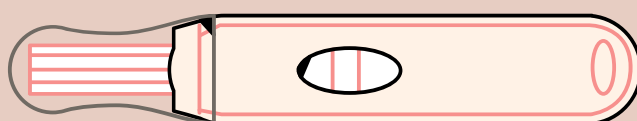
In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)

If you've been struggling with infertility, IVF may be another option for you.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

During IVF, eggs are fertilized by sperm outside of the body. The fertilized eggs are then moved into the uterus, and if one implants, it will result in a pregnancy.

One cycle typically takes 2 weeks, however you may need more than one cycle.



FIRST FEW STEPS

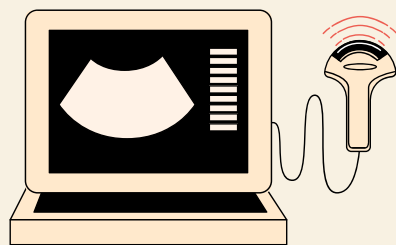
1. Some women may need to start with ovulation suppression. By taking birth control, it can suppress natural hormones to ensure IVF occurs at the right time.
2. The next step is hormone injections in order to stimulate the ovaries. Throughout this period, you will need to monitor your hormone levels through regular blood tests and ultrasounds to determine how effective the injections are.
3. After 8-14 days, you will then receive a trigger shot of either human chorionic gonadotropin or Lupron in order to help the eggs mature and to trigger ovulation.

RETRIEVAL

The eggs will then be ready for retrieval 36 hours after the trigger shot.

The doctor will retrieve them transvaginally, and it will be done under IV sedation.

Ensure someone can drive you back home after the procedure, and be prepared to relax for the rest of the day.



FERTILIZATION

The eggs and sperm are fertilized in the lab, and checked 12-14 hours after to see if it worked.

The embryos are monitored for the next few days and are genetically tested.

TRANSFER

You will then be started on a progesterone boost in order to prepare your uterine lining for the embryo implantation. The medication is continued through the first 8-10 weeks of pregnancy.

3-5 days after the egg fertilization, the embryo transfer occurs, and the doctor will place the embryos in your uterus. You are awake for the procedure and can often times watch it on an ultrasound monitor.

LAST STEP

A positive pregnancy test

You will have a blood test two weeks after to determine if it was successful.



COST

Single cycle: \$12,000

There are additional costs for medication and other add-ons, which totals to \$15,000-\$25,000.

It often times takes more than one cycle, so keep that in mind when determining cost.

16 states currently mandate insurance coverage for infertility related treatments.

Many companies are starting to offer coverage or partial coverage for treatments too.

