

# Artificial Insemination



Concept  
Fertility  
Centre

12.3.1

Artificial Insemination (AI) involves placing washed semen from the partner, into the uterus of the woman in order to achieve pregnancy.

AI is also known as Intra Uterine Insemination or IUI. AI may be undertaken in conjunction with ovulation induction using tablets (Clomid or Femara) or injections (eg Gonal F or Puregon). In most cases no medication is required.

Indications for A.I. include:

- difficulty with intercourse
- social factors, such as male partner working away from home
- mild abnormalities of semen
- when the cervical mucus appears to be "hostile" to sperm penetration
- in cases of unexplained infertility or mild endometriosis
- in cases of ovulation induction cycles where pregnancy has not resulted with timed intercourse despite ovulation occurring

## Treatment procedure

A few days before ovulation is due, the woman attends Concept Fertility Centre or one of the collection centres early in the morning for blood tests which will help to ascertain the time of ovulation.

Once ovulation has been confirmed a time for insemination will be arranged with the nurse coordinator. Insemination usually occurs once, occasionally twice per cycle.

Normally, fresh semen is used in A.I. The male partner provides a sample of sperm to Concept Fertility Centre. The sperm is prepared by a special 'washing' technique and then loaded into a catheter ready for transfer. Frozen semen may also be used. The sperm is frozen and stored in "straws" in liquid nitrogen. In preparation for insemination, straws are thawed and the sperm washed and placed into a catheter.

The actual insemination is quite simple and painless and often women attend alone. However, partners are also welcome to attend.

The woman lies on the examination couch, positioned as if for a Pap smear. A speculum is inserted into the vagina. Usually the nurse but in special circumstances, the doctor, places the catheter containing the sperm through the cervix into the uterus where the sperm is deposited. The woman then rests for about 20 minutes. The next step is a blood test 2 weeks later to see if pregnancy has occurred.

The duration of this treatment course will be determined between you and your doctor.

## Results

Success of this treatment depends on multiple factors and should be discussed with your doctor.

## Counselling

Concept Fertility Centre can provide access to an independent counsellor to all couples seeking support and clarification on the use of AIH. Seeking emotional support such as this is not something to be embarrassed about as most couples undergo great stress during this time. Concept Fertility Centre recommends a counselling session prior to commencement on any Assisted Reproductive program.

## Religious aspects

Most faiths appear to be flexible in Assisted Reproductive processes. The Roman Catholic Church requires sperm to be collected using a Semen Collection Device (SCD) at normal intercourse and these needs can be catered for at Concept Fertility Centre.

## Contact Us

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