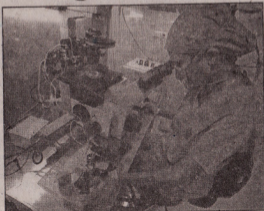


New tech big boon for infertile couples

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There is more good news for couples having fertility problems. Lilavati Hospital has recently installed a new microscope machine that allows infertility specialists, Dr Hrishikesh Pai and Dr Nandita Palshetkar choose good sperms over bad ones. The Microscope machine magnifies the image of the sperm 7, 200 times larger thereby helping pick better sperms as against the earlier technique that had a magnification capacity of 200 times.

The technique called Intra-Cytoplasmic Morphologically Selected Sperm Injection (IMSI) thus ensures a better success rate for IVF than the earlier technique (Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI))



Couples unable to conceive naturally resort to IVF and selection of

good sperms is an important part of IVF. In most cases the doctors

take the husband's sperm to coagulate with the wife's egg. But there are cases where the sperm count is low or the patient has a large number of abnormal or immobile sperms. In such cases, Doctors use a medical microscope attached to the computer to pick better sperms. Considering the high costs of IVF (Rs 80,000- 1,00,000) couples who want to avoid failure, opt for IMSI which the Doctors claim have a much better success rate.

"This is great news for infertile couples. IVF consultants are now better equipped to produce better results for their patients. Though the machine is introduced for the first time in India, in Lilavati Hospital Mumbai, Dr Hrishikesh Pai and Dr Nandita Palshetkar will not charge any extras to the patient availing of this benefit.

What is ICSI?

The procedure of ICSI involves the technique where an egg is held and injected with a single live sperm with the help of a machine called micromanipulator. The fertilization occurs outside the body of the mother. The baby is created outside the body of the mother. After a period of two days, the embryo is placed inside the mother's womb and a blood test done 14 days later confirms the pregnancy.

For the preparation of the couple, the woman is given hormonal injections for 10-12 days so that she can produce 10-12 eggs. These eggs are then retrieved from the body by a small procedure called ovum-pick up which is minimally invasive. The sperms are obtained from the husband. If the husband has zero sperms, then the sperms are retrieved by doing a testicular biopsy. It takes 15-20 minutes under Anesthesia, and the patient is able to go home two hours later.