

IMSI – A new breakthrough in male infertility

Setting a new precedent for the rest of the country, Lilavati Hospital IVF Centre, Mumbai recently installed a new microscope machine that will allow infertility specialists to pick the best quality sperm while carrying out the specialised test-tube baby procedure of ICSI.

The machine, called the Intra-Cytoplasmic Morphologically Selected Sperm Injection (IMSI), helps magnify the image of the sperm 7,200 times, thereby allowing doctors to pick the best looking healthier sperms. The machine is an advanced version of the earlier technique of Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI), having the magnification capacity of 16

In the ICSI technique, an egg is held and injected with a husband sperm, with the help of a machine called micromanipulator. If the husband has no sperms, then sperms are obtained by doing a testicular biopsy. The fertilisation occurs outside the woman's body. The baby/embryo is created outside the body of the mother and then placed inside the mother's womb.



The IMSI method was first developed in 2004 by a team led by Benjamin Bartoov, of Barilan University in Israel, who used IMSI to select those sperms with a shape and size that indicated good genetic quality. The pregnancy rate in patients jumped from 30 to 66 per cent.

IMSI helps improve the success rate among men with the worst prognosis and is said to be more beneficial than ICSI in patients with previous two IVF or ICSI failures. It is also useful in couples with unexplained infertility. It has been shown that IMSI resulted in better egg fertilisation rates,

better quality embryos, better rate of blastocyst formation and therefore better pregnancy rates.

Since IMSI has been introduced in the hospital, several pregnancies have been achieved. Recently a patient who had severe male factor infertility and had failed to fertilise her eggs in previous

two attempts of ICSI, not only achieved fertilisation with IMSI but also achieved pregnancy.
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