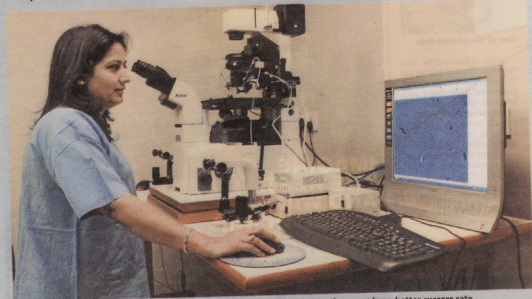


New machine ensures better success for IVF

Equipment installed at Lilavati Hospital allows 7,200 times magnified view of sperm compared to old technique which allowed 200-time magnification

PICTURE: BANA CHAKRABORTY



The new machine that allows doctors to choose good sperms over bad ones, thus ensuring a better success rate

SANTOSH ANDHALE

Looking for fool-proof In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF)? Lilavati Hospital installed a new machine on Friday that will allow doctors to choose good sperms over bad ones as they will now be able to view them 7200 times larger.

The technique called Intracytoplasmic Morphologically Selected Sperm Injection (IMSI) ensures a better success rate for IVF than the earlier technique [Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI)] which allowed a magnification of 200 times.

Couples unable to conceive naturally resort to IVF and selection of good sperm is an important part of IVF. In most cases doctors use the husband's sperm to coagulate with the wife's egg. But there are cases where the sperm

doctors use a medical microscope attached to the computer to select good sperms. The new machine allows a magnification of 7200 times, helping pick better sperms. Considering the high costs for ICSI (Rs 80000 to Rs 100000), couples who want to avoid failure, are opting for IMSI, which the doctors claim, have a much better success rate.

"This is good for the IVF consultants as they can produce better results for their patients. We are introducing the machine for the first time in India, but won't be charging anything extra to the patients," said Dr Hrishikesh Pai, IVF specialist, Lilavati Hospital.

"The new machine will help us achieve a better success rate. Earlier it was available only in foreign countries. The new technique is particularly helpful to those whose sperm count is low, or have a

immobile sperms. With only 200 times magnification, it was difficult to distinguish the sperms. But with the image getting magnified 7200 times, it's much easier to pick the good ones," said, Dr Nandita Palshetkar, IVF consultant, Lilavati Hospital.

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 fertilisation occurs outside the woman's body. The baby is created outside the body of the mother and then after a period of two days, the embryo is placed inside the woman's womb. 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 10-15 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 sperms are retrieved by doing a testicular biopsy. It takes 15-20 minutes, done under anaesthesia, and the patient is able to go home two hours later.

WHAT IS IMSI

Intracytoplasmic Morphologically Selected Sperm Injection (IMSI) is a modified form of the ICSI (intracytoplasmic sperm injection) technique, however the only difference is that it carefully selects the best quality sperm by magnifying it many times more than the conventional ICSI method. Patients with severe low sperm count can benefit from IMSI.