WHAT IS AN EMBRYO TRANSFER MEDIA?
Embryo transfer media is a glue like substance, containing Hyaluronan which is a naturally existing molecule present in the endometrium (Salamonsen 2001) and found in the uterine cavity and fallopian tubes.

HOW IS EMBRYO TRANSFER MEDIA USED?
For pregnancy to occur, the developing embryo must implant into the lining of the female's uterus (endometrium). ‘This media surrounds the embryo at transfer’, to maximise implantation of IVF embryos by aiding in the receptivity between the embryo and the uterus.

The embryo(s) which are selected are placed in a small volume of this media prior to transfer. When this transfer procedure takes place, the embryo(s) are loaded into the transfer catheter along with a tiny volume of the transfer media and released into the female’s uterus.

This media does not make the embryo ‘stickier’ in any way.

HOW DOES EMBRYO TRANSFER MEDIA ASSIST IMPLANTATION?
The molecule, Hyaluronan, present in embryo transfer media assists the implantation of embryos in many ways:

- By increasing the cell to cell adhesion of the embryo and uterus lining.
- Interacting with growth factors that facilitate implantation.
- The by-products of Hyaluronan promote angiogenesis – the growth of new blood vessels.
- Human eggs and embryos already have surface receptors for Hyaluronan.
- Hyaluronan may play a role in preparing the endometrium for implantation to be more receptive to embryos.
WHAT ARE THE PROS OF USING EMBRYO TRANSFER MEDIA?

• Studies in Colorado showed that Embryo Transfer media, containing Hyaluronan, significantly improved the implantation rate of human embryos (Schoolcraft et al. 2002).

• Recent studies (Urman et al. 2008) have shown an increase in pregnancy rates when embryos were transferred at either the cleavage stage (day 3 transfer) or the blastocyst stage (day 5 transfer).

• There is some evidence to suggest a significant increase in pregnancy rates in women over the age of 38 with the use of transfer media containing Hyaluronan (Balaban et al. 2004).

• Studies have also shown that frozen/thawed embryos that are transferred using embryo transfer media, containing Hyaluronan, may improve pregnancy rates.

WHAT ARE THE CONS OF USING EMBRYO TRANSFER MEDIA?

• Using transfer media, containing Hyaluronan, does not guarantee implantation. It simply assists the process. This is also true of transferring embryos in non-hyaluronan media.

• There is the risk of multiple pregnancy rates as a consequence of more than one embryo being transferred, again, this is true in any IVF cycle transferring multiple embryos.

City Fertility Centre was one of the first fertility clinics, in Australia, to introduce the use of embryo transfer media.

If you wish to discuss the use of embryo transfer media in your treatment cycle, please feel free to contact our scientists or your treating fertility specialist.