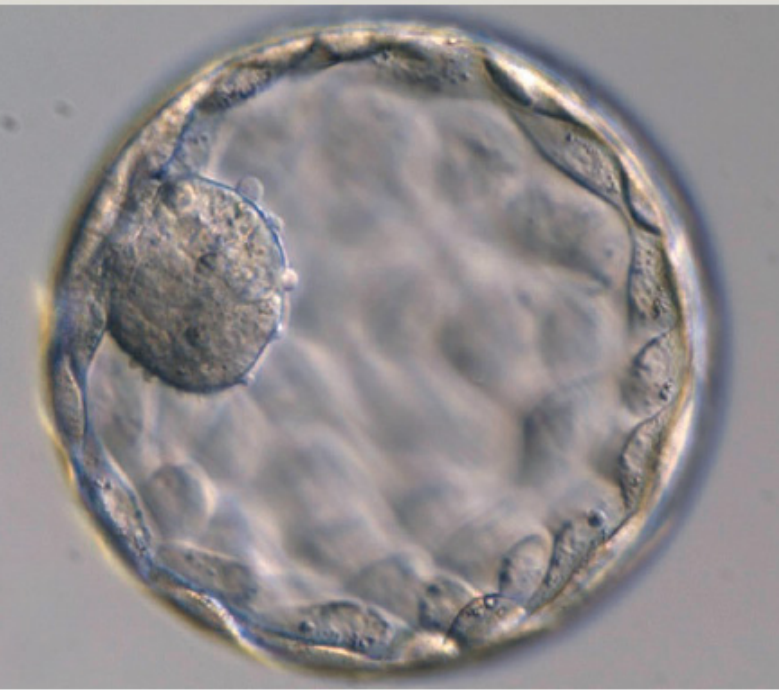
In-Cycle

Embryo Transfer Media for Improved Implantation

What You Need to Know



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What is an Embryo Transfer Medium?

An embryo transfer medium 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 are Embryo Transfer Media used?

For pregnancy to occur, the developing embryo must implant into the lining of the woman's uterus (endometrium). This medium surrounds the embryo at transfer, to maximise implantation of IVF embryos by aiding in the receptivity between the embryo and the uterus.

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

This medium does not make the embryo "stickier" in any way.

How does an Embryo Transfer Medium 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 transferred using 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, which, again, also applies to any IVF cycle transferring multiple embryos.

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

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

Where to Now?

For more information contact your clinic to speak with your scientist

Contact Us

Adelaide	1300 483 235
Brisbane City	1800 123 483
Brisbane Southside	1300 483 784
Gold Coast	1300 859 116
Melbourne City	1300 781 483
Melbourne Bundoora	1300 483 232
Sydney	1300 277 447

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