

## **About Micromanipulation (#7)**

In an effort to enhance fertilization or increase embryo implantation rates, micromanipulation techniques may be used. Assisted hatching and intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) are the most common micromanipulation techniques used.

- ❑ What types of micromanipulation techniques does the clinic offer?
- ❑ Does the lab working with the IVF clinic have a MD or board certified PhD also called "HCLD" which stands for high-complexity clinical laboratories director?
- ❑ Are there requirements that patients have to fulfill before being accepted as a micromanipulation candidate, such as a history of failed IVF cycles?

### **ICSI**

- ❑ If the clinic does intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) for male factor, what is the lowest count, morphology or motility range that they will work with?
- ❑ Does the clinic suggest that men with severe male factor have a chromosome test to evaluate for abnormalities on the Y chromosome before doing the ICSI procedure?
- ❑ How long has the clinic done ICSI?
- ❑ Will the clinic work with frozen sperm?
- ❑ Does the clinic do "rescue ICSI" if the eggs do not fertilize on their own?
- ❑ Does the clinic prescribe antibiotics or steroids for a few days at the time of embryo transfer?
- ❑ What is the clinical pregnancy rate per egg retrieval and per embryo transfer for ICSI cycles?
- ❑ Does the clinic freeze extra embryos resulting from ICSI? If so, what is their current pregnancy rate per frozen embryo transfer?
- ❑ What is the cost of the ICSI procedure over and above the cost for the IVF procedure?
- ❑ Does health insurance cover any portion of the cost?
- ❑ Is there someone on the clinic staff to help answer insurance related questions? If so, who is that?
- ❑ Does the clinic require that amniocentesis or CVS (chronic villi sampling) be done if a pregnancy occurs? If so, do they recommend a specific diagnostic lab or facility?

### **ASSISTED HATCHING**

- ❑ How long has the clinic been doing assisted hatching?
- ❑ What technique does the clinic use to make the tiny opening in the embryo's wall?
- ❑ Will the clinic freeze embryos that have had assisted hatching?

- ❑ Will the clinic do assisted hatching on frozen embryos prior to transfer?
- ❑ Does the clinic prescribe antibiotics and/or steroids (prednisone) at the time of transfer?
- ❑ What is the cost of assisted hatching?
- ❑ Does insurance cover any of the cost?

*Further information on this topic is available through RESOLVE fact sheets. For a publications order form, go online to [www.resolve.org](http://www.resolve.org). You can also contact RESOLVE Headquarters at 1760 Old Meadow Rd, Ste 500, McLean, VA 22102 or 703.556.7172.*

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10/12