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PATIENT INFORMATION

EmbryoGlue® – Enhanced Medium for Embryo Transfer

What is EmbryoGlue?

EmbryoGlue is a product developed to closely resemble the environment in the uterus during the time of implantation. It is not an actual glue in the common sense, but is reported to act as a glue by increasing the chance of implantation of the embryo to the lining of the uterus. EmbryoGlue is enriched with the carbohydrates and amino acids needed to support the embryo during transfer and implantation. It has a relatively high concentration of hyaluronan and also contains the safest protein source available, recombinant albumin.

What is Hyaluronan?

Hyaluronan is a natural substance abundant in all tissues in the body, and the levels of hyaluronan increase in the uterus during implantation. Both the uterine wall and the embryo have receptor sites for this molecule.

How does Hyaluronan work?

It is thought that the hyaluronan in EmbryoGlue acts like a bridge between the embryo and the uterus, having a 'glue-like' effect. Also, the higher concentration of hyaluronan thickens the solution to mimic the consistency of the fluids in the uterus. This allows better mixing of the EmbryoGlue and uterine fluids and is believed to minimize any movement of the embryo within the uterus.

Who should use EmbryoGlue?

All patients going through IVF procedures that result in a transfer could benefit from EmbryoGlue. A literature study by the independent research institute "Cochrane Collaboration" covering all published results on the effects of increased hyaluronan during embryo transfer shows an increase in implantation rate compared to embryo transfer without hyaluronan. EmbryoGlue is the only product available that is enriched with hyaluronan.

Results

CARE is undertaking a large evaluation of our clinical results following the use of EmbryoGlue. Some studies have demonstrated a significant increase in the number of 'take home' babies for couples with a wide range of infertility issues. EmbryoGlue has been shown to be especially beneficial for patients above the age of 35, patients with previously failed implantation and patients with unexplained infertility.

How will EmbryoGlue be used in my treatment?

EmbryoGlue will replace the standard culture medium that we use for embryo transfer following ICSI or IVF insemination. Your embryo(s) selected for transfer will be placed into the EmbryoGlue and cultured for a short time up to the point of embryo transfer. Embryo(s) will be loaded with the EmbryoGlue into a fine catheter which is used to place them into the uterus. The only difference is the medium used for embryo transfer the procedure itself remains the same.

Please note that EmbryoGlue is not suitable to be used with hatching or fully hatched blastocysts. If your embryos are at this stage prior to transfer then your embryologist will discuss this with you further.

Fees

A fee applies for the use of EmbryoGlue in your treatment. Please see the current fee schedule.

Summary

Although the scientific literature has demonstrated a positive effect on IVF and ICSI treatment outcomes for patients, there can be no assurance that this will improve the outcome for those electing to use it in their treatment cycle at CARE.

We believe it is important that clinics keep a balanced view on EmbryoGlue and provide patients with the advantages and disadvantages of its use within treatment. In keeping with our CARE policy of trying to support patients not only with an optimal chance of conception, but also with maximum information during their treatment cycle with us, we will use EmbryoGlue following discussion with individual couples.