

**Fertility Center, LLC
and
Embryo Services, LLC**

**INFORMED CONSENT:
INTRACYTOPLASMIC SPERM INJECTION**

Consent:

We, the undersigned, have been counseled that the likelihood of our sperm and oocytes (eggs) achieving fertilization is low with conventional in vitro fertilization (IVF) techniques. We, therefore, give our consent for the direct injection of sperm into the oocytes (eggs) through a procedure known as Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI).

ICSI Explained:

The procedure is performed by the use of very small micro-needles that are mounted on special “robotic” arms that translate large movements into very small ones. One smooth needle is used to hold the egg in place with gentle suction. With a second sharp needle, the sperm is picked up tail-first and the needle is advanced into the center of the egg. The sperm is then injected and the needle withdrawn.

Risks and Benefits of ICSI:

All the questions which we have about this procedure have been answered in the manner which we understand. In this regard, we have been specifically informed of the following:

A: Risks:

The intent of intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) is to overcome the initial barriers to fertilization of oocytes presented by the outer layer of the egg. Defects in these steps of fertilization have been found to be present in certain instances – especially male factor infertility. The direct injection of sperm into oocytes may itself cause damage to the oocytes rendering them incapable of implantation and pregnancy.

Our sperm and/or eggs may contain defects located further along the fertilization process than the step of sperm entry into the egg. Thus while ICSI can bypass the problem of sperm entry, it still may not produce normal fertilization. Men with low numbers of normally functioning sperm have been found to have a higher incidence of small genetic abnormalities on a region of the “Y” chromosome thought to be important to the production of normal sperm. Assisting the sperm from these individuals in the fertilization process is likely to increase the probability of these abnormalities being transmitted to the next generation. Studies have shown that whereas these abnormalities are present in about 1% of the population, children that were conceived through the ICSI procedure have an approximately 2% incidence of a similar genetic abnormality. All studies to date have shown that children born from these procedures are indistinguishable in development and intelligence from their peers who have been conceived naturally or through conventional IVF. The concern is that when the male children of ICSI pregnancies grow up, they will have the same infertility problems as their fathers.

B: Benefits:

The intent of intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) is to overcome the initial barriers to fertilization of oocytes presented by the outer layers of the egg. Defects in these steps of fertilization have been found to be present in certain instances – especially male factor infertility. Examples include low count, motility, progression or morphology. Additionally, ICSI can overcome the presence of sperm antibodies that block the sperms ability to bind and (or) penetrate the egg.

IN SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, WE CERTIFY THAT WE HAVE READ AND FREELY AND KNOWINGLY AGREE TO EVERYTHING STATED IN THIS AGREEMENT AND THE EXPLANATIONS WE HAVE RECEIVED REGARDING THE USE OF ICSI.

Patient's signature

Date

Spouse's signature

Date

Notary's signature

Date

Commission Expires On

Date

I have thoroughly reviewed the information contained in this consent with the above named persons and believe they have made an informed decision regarding assisted reproductive treatment.

Staff Signature

Date

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