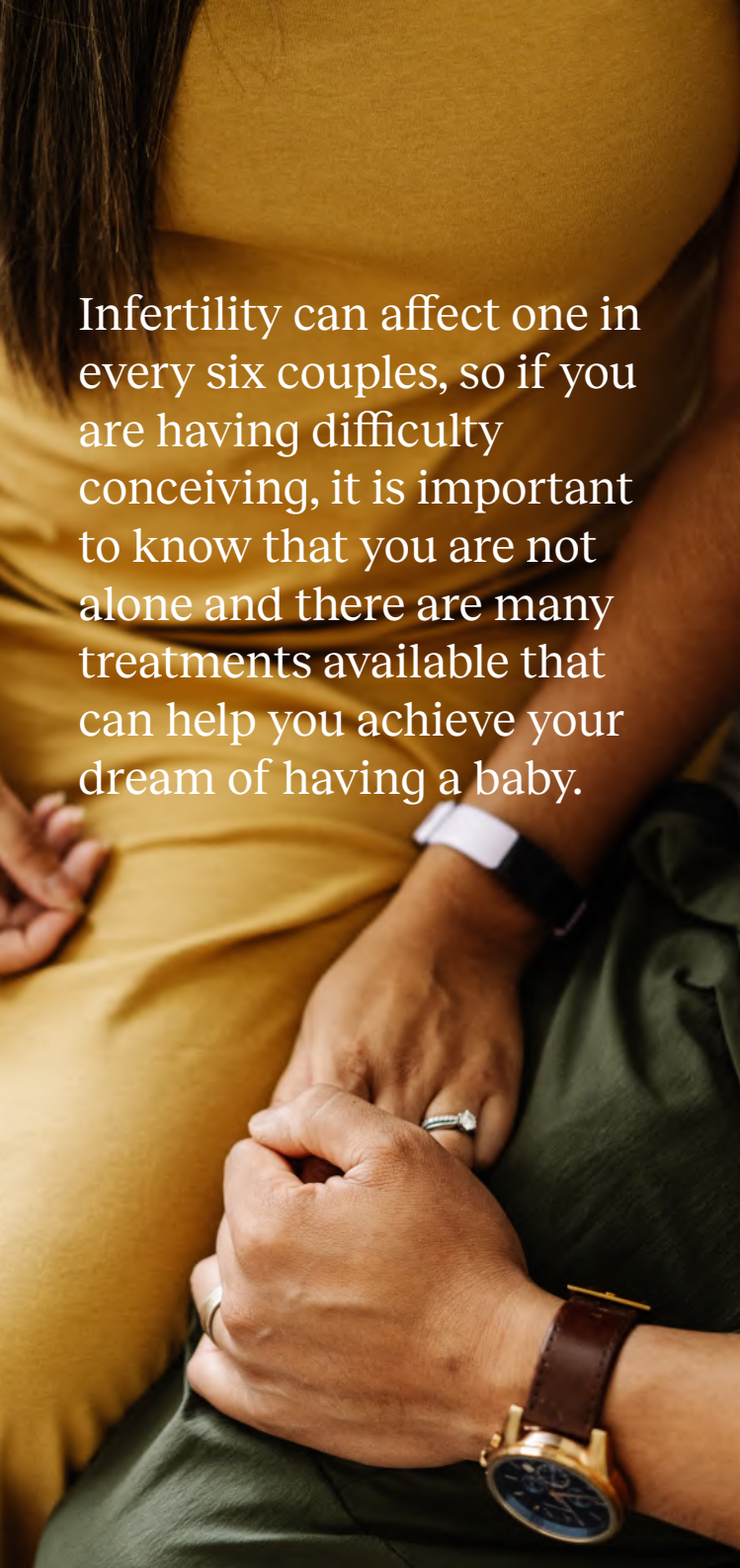


A man with a beard and a woman are embracing each other in a warm, affectionate manner. The man is wearing a white t-shirt and a plaid shirt, and the woman is wearing a white long-sleeved top and a light-colored skirt with a black belt. They are standing in front of a white house with horizontal siding. A black lantern is visible on the wall to the left, and some green plants are hanging from above. The overall mood is intimate and supportive.

repromed

IVF Treatment



Infertility can affect one in every six couples, so if you are having difficulty conceiving, it is important to know that you are not alone and there are many treatments available that can help you achieve your dream of having a baby.

What Happens During IVF Treatment?

With many different causes of infertility, treatments may vary. One type of treatment is IVF (In Vitro Fertilisation) where eggs are collected from the ovary, fertilised in the laboratory and replaced into the uterus, hopefully resulting in a successful pregnancy.

This brochure outlines what happens during an IVF cycle at Repromed.



Egg Collection

The starting point for IVF treatment is obtaining eggs from the ovaries. This is done by administering injections of FSH (Follicle Stimulating Hormone) which encourages development of several eggs (usually 5-10 however, the number can vary immensely).

This process normally takes about 2 weeks. Once enough eggs have developed, they are removed from the ovaries by passing a needle into the fluid filled sacs that contain the eggs (follicles) and aspirating them out. This is a simple procedure that is performed under a general anaesthetic in theatre by a Doctor.

Sperm Preparation

While the eggs are being collected in theatre, the sperm sample is also being prepared. Depending on the quality of the sperm sample there are different preparation methods, however the most common method is called a density gradient preparation. The sperm is added to a test tube that contains a special media which filters out sperm that have poor motility. If the sperm count is very poor, or if the man has had a surgical sperm collection, the sperm sample will be spun to concentrate as many sperm together as possible. These samples are then used to inseminate the eggs.

Insemination

There are two different types of insemination techniques, IVF standard insemination or ICSI (Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection). IVF standard insemination is used in patients that have normal sperm parameters and this involves the scientist in the laboratory placing the eggs and the sperm into a dish and leaving them overnight so fertilisation can occur.

If there are severe problems with the sperm, or if IVF standard insemination has failed previously, IVF is combined with ICSI, where scientists inject a single sperm into each egg.

These are then also left overnight in the hope that fertilisation will occur.

Fertilisation

The morning after the egg retrieval, the scientists check the eggs for signs of fertilisation. If normal fertilisation has occurred the fertilised eggs are now called 'embryos' and are grown in the laboratory until they are ready to be placed back into the uterus.

Embryo Development

Embryos can be grown in the laboratory for up to 6 days after egg retrieval. This time allows the embryo to develop and switch-on their own genes.

Embryo Transfer

On the day of your embryo transfer, the scientists will assess your embryos and pick the most suitable one for transfer.

The embryo will then be loaded into a very soft thin plastic tube and placed back into your uterus. This procedure is very simple and does not require an anaesthetic.



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