



RMA OF MICHIGAN NEWS BLAST

What Are the Benefits of CCS?

An estimated 60% of all early miscarriages are associated with a chromosomal abnormality in the fetus. The purpose of CCS is to analyze, select and transfer only embryos that do not have abnormalities in their number of chromosomes in order to achieve higher implantation rates and fewer pregnancy losses. Research has shown chromosomal abnormalities in embryos may increase the risk of spontaneous miscarriage or the development of a genetically abnormal fetus in IVF pregnancies from women 35 or older, couples with multiple-failed IVF cycles or implantation failure, and couples with repeated miscarriages.

CCS is performed on a few cells re-

moved from a day 5 or 6 embryo called a blastocyst. During the time it takes to perform CCS, blastocysts are cryopreserved using a quick freezing method called vitrification. Embryo survival after vitrification has significantly improved to 98%.

Waiting for the CCS results and vitrifying the embryos has an added benefit to the patient. It offers some time for the patient's body to return to a normal hormonal state after ovarian stimulation from the previous IVF cycle. A variety of studies have shown that replacing embryos into a uterus that is in a more natural hormonal state enhances the likelihood of implantation.

Second Annual Baby Reunion



Last year RMA of Michigan held its first ever Baby Reunion in recognition of our fifth anniversary. We were overwhelmed with the number of people that attended and the outpouring of gratitude. Our staff had a wonderful time reconnecting with former patients and their little ones.

Due to the popularity of the event we have decided to make it an annual event! This year's reunion will take place on Saturday, September 22 from noon-3p.m. at Clawson Park. Our staff is looking forward to reconnecting with everyone and enjoying a great afternoon at the park.

Refer A Friend Contest



Patients who refer a friend or family member

to RMA will be entered into a quarterly drawing to win a \$100 gift card. Make sure they give your full name when scheduling their appointment.

Upcoming Events



National Infertility Awareness Week

April 22 - 28

Free Seminar "Coping with Infertility"

Tuesday, April 24
6:00-7:00 PM

Success Rates: What You Need to Know

An important factor when it comes to choosing an IVF center is their success rates. Patients want the best chance for success so they look for centers that have high success rates. However, these rates can be confusing and it is important that you understand how to interpret them. First you want to look for clinics that are performing a substantial number of IVF cycles a year. Typically 200 or more total IVF cycles or more per year is an adequate amount to determine success rates by age group. When a clinic has a small number per age group success rates will vary greatly based on a difference of only one or two pregnancies, which can be misleading.

Success can vary due to many factors. Age is the most important factor, when women are using their own eggs. Success rates decline as women age, and success rates drop off even more dramatically around age 37. Part of this decline is due to a lower chance of getting pregnant from ART, and another

part is due to a higher risk of miscarriage, especially over age 40. However, there is no evidence that the risk of birth defects or chromosome abnormalities (such as Down syndrome) is any different with ART than with natural conception.

Success rates vary with the number of embryos transferred. However, transferring more embryos at one time does not continue to increase the chance of success, but may only increase the risk of a multiple pregnancy, which is much more complicated than a singleton pregnancy and is more likely to result in babies with severe medical problems.

Day 3 follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) levels are also critically important in evaluating your potential for successful conception in an assisted reproductive technology program. This blood test is typically drawn on the third day of a woman's menstrual cycle. Day 3 FSH levels

have been shown to be an incredibly accurate predictor of IVF success, independent of age. Essentially, an elevated Day 3 FSH value indicates a very poor prognosis for conception through IVF and a high risk of pregnancy loss should the rare conception occur. Every IVF program establishes a "threshold" FSH value unique to their laboratory, above which pregnancies are very rarely conceived despite great effort and repeated IVF attempts. At RMA, we have determined that an FSH value of 15 or higher predicts that IVF will have little or no chance in helping to achieve pregnancy.

The Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART) is the primary organization that collects cycle data and creates guidelines and standards for the centers to follow. Visit SART's website at www.sart.org to get more information and review the most recent 2010 success rates.

RMA of Michigan Wants to Hear From You!

RMA of Michigan wants to ensure that we are doing everything we can to make every patient's experience as positive as possible. If you have any suggestions or comments that you would like to share about your experience please fill out a Patient Satisfaction Survey, which is located online. Just visit our website at www.rmami.com and click on the link on our home page located on the left side that says "How Are We Doing? Give Us Your Feedback". You will be directed to a brief survey that will be automatically submitted online. We look forward to hearing from you!

Ask the Experts

The RMA of Michigan News Blast will be adding a new section to our newsletter beginning with the 2012 fall edition. We will be including a section called "Ask the Expert". We are encouraging patients to ask a question on a topic they would like more information about. Questions will be selected and answered by Dr. Miller or Dr. Wolf and published in one of our upcoming editions. Patients can email their questions to Jean at jjross@rmami.com.