

WHAT IS THE SUCCESS RATE OF IUI?

Every couple will have a different response to IUI, and it can be difficult to predict its success. A number of factors affect the outcome, including:

Age

Success rates for IUI tend to decrease in women over the age of 35.

Underlying infertility diagnosis

Pregnancy rates following IUI are varied based on your reasons for needing fertility treatment.

Number of cycles

If a couple has the IUI procedure performed each month, success rates may reach as high as 20% per cycle. These are per cycle rates, meaning that the success odds are higher when looking at multiple cycles together.

Whether fertility drugs are used

In cycles where fertility drugs and IUI were combined, the pregnancy rate was 8 percent to 17 percent.

Other underlying fertility concerns

Though IVF success rates per cycle are much higher, IUI is significantly less expensive. The procedure is also easier and less invasive. If IVF is out of your price range, multiple IUI cycles might be the better choice, depending on the cause of infertility.

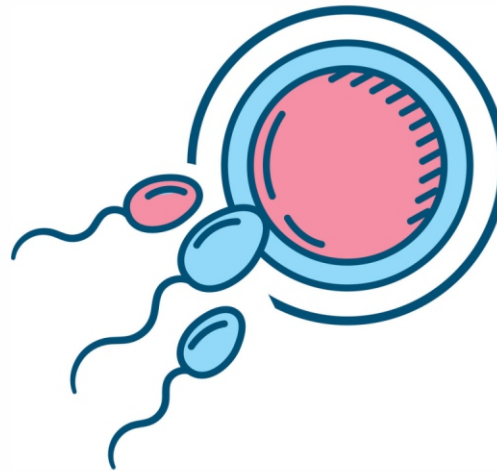
You should discuss your predicted success rate with your fertility specialist to see if this a good option for you.

IS IUI PAINFUL?

IUI is a relatively quick, non-invasive procedure and is performed in the doctor's office without any anaesthesia. It should not be painful, although some women report mild discomfort.

HOW MUCH DOES IUI COST?

The cost to pursue IUI treatment can vary based on the type of drug used for making eggs and procedure charges.



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IUI

Intrauterine Insemination

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WHAT IS INTRAUTERINE INSEMINATION (IUI)?

IUI/donor insemination/ alternative insemination/ artificial insemination is a fertility treatment technique where washed and prepared sperms are injected into the woman's uterus in a prepared menstrual cycle.

This process can increase the likelihood of pregnancy in certain couples who have had difficulty getting pregnant.

WHAT ARE THE INDICATIONS FOR IUI?

- ▶ Unexplained infertility
- ▶ If treatment with fertility drugs alone is not successful
- ▶ Men with low sperm count, decreased sperm mobility, or issues with ejaculation or erection
- ▶ Women with ovulation problems (PCOS) or mild endometriosis
- ▶ Hostile cervical condition, including cervical mucus problems
- ▶ Cervical scar tissue from past procedures which may hinder the sperm's ability to enter the uterus
- ▶ Couples who cannot have intercourse even after psycho-sexual counselling
- ▶ Couples unsuccessful at conceiving even after one year of trying
- ▶ Couples wanting to avoid passing on a genetic defect from the male partner to the child
- ▶ Same-sex couples wishing to conceive
- ▶ Single woman wishing to conceive
- ▶ Donor insemination

WHAT ARE THE CONTRAINDICATIONS FOR IUI?

- ▶ Severe disease of fallopian tubes
- ▶ Both fallopian tubes removed or blocked
- ▶ History of multiple pelvic infections
- ▶ Moderate to severe endometriosis
- ▶ Very low semen count

HOW DOES IUI WORK?

IUI works by putting sperm cells directly into your uterus around the time you're ovulating, helping the sperm get closer to your egg. This cuts down on the time and distance sperm has to travel, making it easier to fertilize your egg.

The purpose is to increase the number of sperms that reach fallopian tubes and hence increase the chances of fertilization.

IUI provides the sperm an advantage by giving it a head start but still requires a sperm to reach and fertilize the egg on its own. It is a less invasive and less expensive option compared to In Vitro Fertilization (IVF).

HOW IS IT DONE?

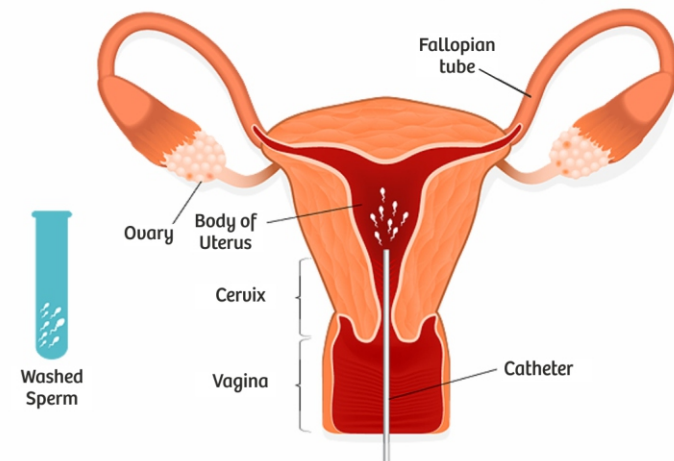
Intrauterine insemination involves careful coordination before the actual procedure:

1. Monitoring ovulation and administering ovulation stimulating medications: Because the timing of IUI is crucial, monitoring is important. To do this, transvaginal ultrasound is done and the size of follicles and endometrium is measured. If the size of the follicles is adequate, injection of human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) is given to make you ovulate one or more eggs at the right time.

2. Semen sample washed and prepared by specialists: The male partner provides a semen sample at the doctor's office, or a vial of frozen donor sperm can be thawed and prepared. Because nonsperm elements in semen can cause reactions in the woman's body that interfere with fertilization, the sample will be washed in a way that separates the highly active, normal sperm from lower quality sperm and other elements. The likelihood of achieving pregnancy increases by using a small, highly concentrated sample of healthy sperm.

3. IUI procedure performed around the time of ovulation: Most IUIs are done between 36-42 hour after the HCG trigger injection

4. Uterus receives sperm directly through catheter



5. Pregnancy test performed later

WHY SHOULD ONE OPT FOR IUI?

IUI is a simple and low-tech procedure, and it can be less expensive than other types of fertility treatments. It increases the chances of pregnancy and is easier to do than assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) like IVF.