

## IUI

Which is short for Intrauterine insemination is a process of artificial insemination using a prepared sperm sample into the woman at the time of ovulation.

This is a process that boosts fertility by not only accurately timing ovulation but also concentrating and washing a motile sperm sample to inject into the womb at the time of ovulation. This brings the best sperms closer to the egg to enhance the success rate of fertilisation.

This can be used for couples with unexplained infertility ovulating normally but can also boost conception in couples with normal ovulation as the combination of using fertility medications can boost success rates by 15-25%.

IUI is also used in couples with mild endometriosis, mild male factor as in slightly reduced motility as well as in couple using donor sperm.

### The IUI process

The treatment depends on the times of the cycle and both ultrasound and blood tests are used to ensure that the egg is maturing normally and ready for ovulation.

When the egg matures and breaks away from the ovary it begins its journey through the Fallopian tubes for fertilisation. Before you start the IUI process the doctor will do a special test to check that your Fallopian tubes are intact and patent.

The sperm sample from your partner or healthy donor sperm is washed to prepare it for IUI and this is then inseminated into the womb using a thin catheter.

Age is a crucial factor in determining the success rate of the IUI procedure and the conception rates drop significantly with increasing age due to decreasing egg quality.

Under 35 years of age the IUI success rate is at 13% but over 40 years of age it can drop to 3-9%.

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