

Cause and Treatment for Infertility

Infertility is fairly common in Hong Kong. One in every 6 to 7 couples is suffering from infertility. Nowadays, there are two methods to treat infertility. One is Intrauterine insemination (IUI), which is performed by threading a very thin flexible catheter through the cervix and injecting washed sperm directly into the uterus.

The other method is in-vitro fertilization/embryo transfer (IVF/ET), which is a more complex procedure. The eggs are taken from the woman's ovaries with a fine needle; after maturing in the laboratory, they are fertilized with the husband's sperm; and after fertilization, the dividing embryos are transferred into the wife's reproductive system. If there is still a question of the sperm's ability to fertilize the eggs due to either low sperm count or poor quality of the sperm, Intra cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) would be performed by direct injection of a single sperm into an egg.

Whatever method is used, the key to success is to seek doctor's advice as early as possible. Most of the couples see the doctors 2 to 3 years after discovering infertility, which will lower the possibility of pregnancy.