



## PATIENT INFORMATION

# IMSI

(Intracytoplasmic Morphologically-selected Sperm Injection)

### Adjuvant therapy

#### **What is adjuvant therapy?**

Adjuvant therapy, also known as 'add-ons', adjunct, complementary or alternative therapies, are recognised as an addition to standard assisted reproductive treatment and may be recommended to you with the intention to increase your success during your fertility treatment. There are numerous options available to you when accessing adjuvant therapies, including but not limited to the technology in laboratories, medical procedures, prescribed medications, nutritional supplements, and traditional medicines such as Chinese medicine, including acupuncture.

At present, the effectiveness of many adjuvant therapies is unknown, with little to no evidence that they will increase the success of your treatment or improve live birth rates. However, your health care provider may recommend adjuvant therapy when considering your medical history and tailoring your treatment plan.

It is important to consider the effectiveness, risks and financial costs of adjuvant therapies.

#### **What is IMSI and how it is normally used?**

Intracytoplasmic Morphologically-selected Sperm Injection (IMSI) is an additional sperm selection technique used in conjunction with Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) in an IVF cycle.

IMSI involves using a microscope with specialised digital imaging to examine sperm under very high magnification (6000x). This allows our scientists to closely examine a sperm's head, mid-piece and tail, and identify suspected defects and structural abnormalities. IMSI aids our scientists to select the best shaped sperm, for injection into the egg, which may improve the likelihood of fertilisation, the quality of the embryos and the cycle outcome.

IMSI cannot be used if natural insemination has been recommended.

#### **Why is IMSI recommended, and will it increase the success of my treatment?**

Your Fertility Specialist may recommend IMSI if your semen analysis indicates abnormal sperm morphology, or you have had previous IVF treatment with poor outcomes, or where scientists have observed morphological abnormalities in the sperm sample.

If a sperm is abnormally shaped it may have trouble fertilising the egg and may be less likely to carry normal genetic material. IMSI doesn't change or improve the quality of sperm in the sample, rather it helps our scientists to exclude sperm with significant abnormalities.

Whilst there is no evidence to support IMSI being used for all patients, some evidence suggests it may be beneficial in specific situations, where male factor infertility and poor sperm

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morphology is present. It is important to note IMSI won't overcome other important factors which can affect outcomes, such as patient age and egg quality.

#### **Are there risks to using IMSI in my IVF cycle?**

IMSI is a non-invasive technique performed on a semen sample as an additional step in the ICSI process. Whilst its benefit is not proven, there is no evidence to suggest IMSI has any negative impact on the success of treatment, nor does it carry any additional known risks for the child born as a result of the treatment, when compared to standard ICSI.

#### **What are the costs?**

There is an additional fee of \$250\* to include IMSI in your ICSI cycle. If IMSI has been recommended by your Fertility Specialist, our Patient Service Officers will provide you with an itemised treatment quote prior to commencing treatment.

*\*Price current May 2022, however subject to change.*

*The information provided above is intended for educational purposes only and should not be used as a substitute or replacement for medical advice received from a medical professional. It is important to discuss your individual circumstances and situation with your treating doctor.*