

Events This Month:

Embryology Lab Presentation Online at www.sdfertility.com

"Mystery Behind the Microscope"

Request login info by email at
seminar@sdfertility.com

Free Internet Seminar Online An educational seminar with our fertility specialists ONLINE!

More info on our website or by
email at seminar@sdfertility.com

Free Group Injection Instructions On Thursday Evenings at SDFC

Call for more information and to RSVP.

Education Topic of the Month: Alternative Therapies supporting Fertility Treatment

Visit our display in our patient education room
or ask for more information at the front desk.

Tip of the Month

When looking for up-to-date, unbiased information about infertility, you might want to visit ASRM's web site. Their "Resources for Patients" has information about physicians, practice guidelines, infertility fact sheets, and controversial topics such as cloning and stem cell research. Visit www.asrm.org.

Quote of the Month:

"The professionalism and friendliness of all the staff makes me feel that I really matter. I love it that everyone remembers my name when I call the office or have an appointment." Patient's comment on a recent anonymous survey.

Newsletter Subscription:

Receive our monthly email newsletter! Subscribe by sending an email to newsletter@sdfertility.com and read helpful tips and articles in over past 40 issues in our archive at www.sdfertility.com/newsletterarchive.htm.

New Digital Interface Connects Patients with Laboratory

SDFC's patients are well educated about fertility treatment and have great interest in each step of the infertility treatment process. For this reason, Drs. Kettel and Hummel decided to have monitoring equipment in the embryology lab installed. Digital cameras have been connected to the lab's microscopes and laser equipment, so that patients can view their embryos right before their embryo transfer. Each exam room in the office has a state-of-the-art monitor and intercom system connected to the embryology lab, which allows communication between patients and laboratory staff without a risk of contamination in the lab. Images of the embryos are printed on new printers for patients for their personal keepsake. "We show patients what happens to their



Patients can look over our embryologist's shoulder and see their embryos under the microscope.

embryos in the lab, so that they can be assured that they are in good hands." comments David Pyatt, COO at SDFC, "With the new equipment we are also one step closer to implementing our electronic medical records system". A complete electronic medical records system in the informational age improves efficiency of staff and administrative tasks and enhances patient care for SDFC patients, with improved security features. This is just another indication for SDFC's leading position pioneering modern standards in fertility care.

Excess Folic Acid During Fertility Treatment May Increase Chances of Twins

A new British study suggests that a woman increasing her folic acid intake during fertility treatment, in which more than one embryo is transferred, also increases her chance of having twins. Folic acid, a B vitamin has been known to protect against birth defects such as spina bifida. Since the U.S. health department started recommending supplements of folic acid during pregnancy in 1992, the occurrence rate of spina bifida has dropped by 32%, according to the CDC. The research conducted by Paul Haggarty at University of Aberdeen observed the folate levels in blood of 602 women undergoing fertility treatment. Results showed that women with high blood concentrations of folate had a higher rate of twin births. However, folate levels did not affect the overall chances of getting pregnant. Drs. Hummel and Kettel prescribe folic acid supplements to our patients. It is important, however, that patients do not use other folic acid supplements (other than the prescribed prenatal vitamins and folic acid).

PGD and Sex Selection

Using PGD simply to choose the baby's gender is still controversial these days. In some centers, sex selection is only considered for couples with a high risk to pass along sex-linked disorders such as hemophilia. However, when fertility patients are asked if they would like to have preimplantation sex selection as part of their treatment, 41% say "yes", according to data published by University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). An argument against sex selection is the presumed bias against female babies. However, the majority of patients at UIC wished for a baby girl.