

Upcoming Events:

Embryology Lab Evening

March 4, 2003, 6pm

"Mystery Behind the Microscope"
sponsored by IVP Pharmaceuticals.
To RSVP call or email us.

Free Group Injection Instructions On Monday Evenings

Call for more information and to RSVP.

Bagel Day

March 12, 2003, 7:30am-12pm

Topic: Healthbanks sponsored by
Organon

++ Telegram ++

► In 2000, the average American woman waited until she was 25 years old before starting a family, compared to 21.4 years of age for her first birth in 1970. The increase in average is due to the lower numbers of teen-age pregnancies, and changes in education and career opportunities for women.
Source: U.S. Center for Disease Control

► The American Infertility Association (AIA) is a great source of information for infertility patients. With support groups, newsletters, seminars among other services, the AIA helps patients to make well-informed decisions about infertility treatment. For more information, visit AIA's interactive Website at www.americaninfertility.org.

Quote of the Month:

"The fact that it worked and we are having a baby!."

Patients' answer when asked what they like best about the care received at SDFC.

Newsletter Subscription:

Receive our monthly newsletter per email and stay informed about fertility issues! Subscribe by sending an email to newsletter@sdfertility.com and read missed issues in our archive at www.sdfertility.com/newsletterarchive.htm.

More High-Tech at the San Diego Fertility Center

Patients and Staff at the San Diego Fertility Center recently installed a state-of-the-art computer software tool, Millbrook®, and enjoy its convenience and practicality for patient management and scheduling. The next level will be reached with the installation and staff training of a medical software tool called "Digital MD" in the next few weeks. Digital MD, a comprehensive computer aid for the IVF and Andrology Lab, makes it possible to document patient notes, lab data, embryo images, report statistics to SART and send internal messages electronically. "This will help facilitate our every day lab work significantly", says Bill Venier, Embryologist at the Center, "It is important for our office to use the latest high-tech tools for better patient service."

Already an important tool for patients and staff is the email communication system. As listed in the convenient "Patient Roadmap", each department has its own email address for questions and requests. Without the necessity to leave handwritten messages for nurses and playing phone tag, replies to emails are faster and sooner. Thanks to continuous modernizations patient satisfaction increased significantly over the past months, according to recent patient surveys.

Discovery of L-Selectin Could Lead to Breakthrough in Fertility Care

Researchers identified a protein on the surface of the embryo that helps explain how the fertilized embryo gets attached to the uterine wall.

Scientists analyzed carbohydrate molecules on the surface of the uterus during different times of the female cycle and found a very specialized carbohydrate sugar structure. The sugar molecule is secreted for only a short time during a woman's monthly cycle and matches the discovered protein on the surface of the embryo like a puzzle. The arrival of the protein with its L-selectin coating in the uterus must be perfectly timed

with the presence of the sugar molecules in the uterus or there will be no pregnancy. "This might be the explanation why some IVF transfers are unsuccessful", says Dr. William Hummel. "With this knowledge it soon won't be necessary to transfer more than one embryo into the uterus."

Further research has to investigate if the current number representing a failure of implantation can be reduced by coating embryos with the sugar molecule and helping the embryo adhere to the uterus. In addition, a more precise timing for the transfer could improve the chances for implantation and therefore a greater certainty for a successful pregnancy.

The results of the research are very promising for new advances in fertility treatment. In addition, it may be possible to develop new contraceptives based on blocking the implantation of the embryo instead of hormones.



Currently, two or three embryos are used for IVF transfers to increase the chances for successful treatment.

Good News for Women Using Oral Contraceptives



The Pill is one of the most convenient methods of birth control.

New research indicates that women who have been on the pill for five years or more have no more trouble getting pregnant than do women who have not taken the pill. When trying to conceive, 88 percent of the long-term pill users got pregnant within the first year compared with 90 percent of the general population. This is reassuring data to women who are taking oral contraceptives that there is no disadvantage when trying to get pregnant.

Infertility Specialists agree that the pill does not cause women fertility problems, assuming that they are fertile in the first place.



This newsletter is sponsored by Arizona Apothecary Shops.
Visit www.fertilitymeds.us or email: info@fertilitymeds.us