

Recruitment Guideline in the Hospital Authority for In-Vitro-Fertilization (IVF)

I. Background

IVF is an invasive procedure and serious complications such as ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome, risks of oocyte retrieval, ectopic pregnancy and multiple pregnancy can occur. There would also be risk usually associated with pregnancies, including abortion and congenital abnormalities. The cost effectiveness of treatment is also important. For these reasons appropriate patient selection is mandatory and a clear indication for IVF must exist for this publicly funded service.

The decision on whether to recommend IVF treatment should be based on

- (1) the likelihood that a pregnancy will occur without treatment;
- (2) the possibility that a less invasive form of treatment might be effective;
- (3) the likely outcome of IVF treatment.

II. Patient Selection Criteria

1. The female patient must not be more than 40 years of age at the time the procedure is initiated.
2. Couples must be legally married with no living child for the current marriage.
3. Couples must not have contraindications for pregnancy in terms of medical, physical and mental conditions.
4. Couples must be adequately investigated and IVF is the most appropriate treatment.
5. Clients with decreased ovarian reserve as indicated by screening test(s) will be excluded.
6. Each eligible couple will be entitled to three IVF treatment cycles within the Hospital Authority.
7. On top of the above, the individual professional team will consider other relevant factors where appropriate e.g. the underlying cause of infertility, the duration of infertility and the pregnancy history.

Hospital Authority
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