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Sperm motility using direct swim-up technique at two different temperatures

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Introduction & Aim: Swim-up technique is one of the commonly used techniques for semen processing for intrauterine insemination (IUI) and *in vitro* fertilization (IVF). The aim of this study was to evaluate sperm progression and total motility in infertile men using direct swim-up technique at 37°C and 34°C.

Methods: 40 infertile men who attended our Fertility Clinic in Babylon, Iraq participated in this study. Following liquefaction, semen samples underwent semen analysis according to WHO 2010 criteria. Each sample was then divided into two aliquots and each aliquot was processed using direct swim-up technique at 37°C and 34°C. Sperm progression and total motility of semen processed at two different temperatures were compared.

Results: The proportions of progressive and total sperm motility before direct swim-up procedure were 47.5 ± 16.67 , 73.75 ± 18.31 respectively. Following direct-swim-up, sperm progressive motility increased in the processed semen samples incubated at 34°C (64.25 ± 14.70) as compared to those incubated at 37°C (55.75 ± 15.95) ($P=0.015$). Sperm total motility was also higher in the processed semen samples incubated at 34°C (88.25 ± 9.77) as compared to those incubated (82 ± 14.62) at 37°C ($P=0.027$).

Conclusions: Semen processing using direct swim-up technique at 34°C improved sperm progressive and total motility in comparison with 37°C which could improve sperm recovery for IUI and IVF.

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