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Endoscopic embryo transfer and implantation (heed and seed): Improving success and decreasing risks

Michael Kamrava
West Coast IVF Clinic, Inc., USA

Introduction: There has been little change in embryo transfer technique in past 30 years, even though it is a major bottleneck to the success of IVF procedure. Here we would like to share our experience with endoscopic embryo transfer and implantation.

Materials and methods: In the first group of patients HEED was done on day 2/3, and in the second group SEED was done on day 5/6 after oocyte retrieval. The hysteroscope was a 3mm flexible scope made by Storz, El Segundo, CA, USA and the KAM's catheter was made by IVF Scientific, Beverly Hills, CA USA.

Results: There were a total of 59 patient starts with a total of 32 pregnancies. There were 14(24%) live births, 6 biochemicals, and 10 spontaneous pregnancies. The 2 ectopic pregnancies were confined to the HEED group.

Discussion: HEED and SEED are objective and reliable techniques that assure correct placement of the embryo(s). Ectopic pregnancies from IVF will be minimized by using lower transfer volumes of 5 µl and visually confirmed positional placement of embryos 2 cm away from the uterine cornu and are eliminated with SEED. Patients with failed IVF, 'Implantation Failure' or at risk for ectopic pregnancy would particularly benefit from SEED. The use of endoscopic embryo transfers would greatly alleviate patient anxiety as they can see the transfer process on the monitor, and would decrease cost to the patient as they decrease the number of attempts at using IVF in achieving a successful targeted singleton pregnancy.

Biography

Michael Kamrava graduated Cum laude from University of Illinois in 1972 and completed his MD at the age of 25 years from Case Medical School. He completed OB/GYN residency from Mt Sinai Hospital in 1980 and a fellowship in REI in 1982. He is the Director of Reproductive Institute in Beverly Hills CA. He has published numerous papers in reputed journals and has edited books and written several book chapters, and is serving as an editorial board member of reputed journals. He was also awarded the prestigious "Golden Telescope" for his contribution of endoscopic embryo implantation technique.

drk@wcivf.com