

# Insemination of eggs, what are the treatment options?



### **IVF (*In Vitro* Fertilisation)**

- Sperm and eggs mixed together in a laboratory culture dish
- Natural conception in an unnatural environment
- Sperm must swim to, interact with and fertilise the egg
- About 80% of eggs should fertilise normally
- Requires higher concentration of prepared sperm
- Effective for the treatment of tubal infertility, PCOS, Endometriosis and unexplained infertility
- Ineffective for male factor infertility

### **ICSI (Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection)**

- Cumulus cells which surround eggs removed so eggs can be clearly visualised, assessed and injected
- Sperm selected and injected into each mature egg
- Mechanical conception in an unnatural environment
- About 75% of eggs should fertilise normally
- Increased risk of damage to eggs (about 5%)
- Suitable for cases of male infertility where the number of healthy sperm is very low
- Suitable for other cases where the fertilisation rate for IVF has been very low or IVF has failed to result in the formation of viable embryos

### **Other points to note:**

- All of the above treatments can be performed with sperm from either your own partner or a sperm donor.
- ICSI treatment can be performed with eggs that have been frozen and thawed.
- Where possible people should consider the least invasive treatment (IVF) if there is no clinical need for a more invasive treatment as the chances of success are not increased by having a more technical procedure.
- Prices vary from provider to provider for private treatment.
- Success rates vary significantly from clinic to clinic and are dependant upon the age of the woman at the time the eggs were collected.