

PATIENT INFORMATION

HA-ICSI

Adjuvant therapy

What is adjuvant therapy?

Adjuvant therapy, also known as 'add-ons', adjunct, complementary or alternative therapies, are recognised as an addition to standard assisted reproductive treatment and may be recommended to you with the intention to increase your success during your fertility treatment. There are numerous options available to you when accessing adjuvant therapies, including but not limited to the technology in laboratories, medical procedures, prescribed medications, nutritional supplements, and traditional medicines such as Chinese medicine, including acupuncture.

At present, the effectiveness of many adjuvant therapies is unknown, with little to no evidence that they will increase the success of your treatment or improve live birth rates. However, your health care provider may recommend adjuvant therapy when considering your medical history and tailoring your treatment plan.

It is important to consider the effectiveness, risks and financial costs of adjuvant therapies.

What is HA-ICSI and how it is normally used?

HA ICSI, sometimes known as PICSI (Physiological Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection), is an additional sperm selection technique used in conjunction with Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) in an IVF cycle.

During a standard ICSI process, scientists assess and select sperm based on the sperm's movement (motility) and appearance (morphology). HA-ICSI includes a functional test first, to increase the chance of selecting mature sperm with better DNA integrity.

Immediately prior to commencing the ICSI procedure, scientists expose the sperm to a substance called SpermSlow, which is a viscous solution containing hyaluronan. Our scientists observe the sperm's ability to bind to the hyaluronan, a process which mimics the natural binding of mature sperm to eggs. Binding is identified by sperm displaying vigorous movement, but little forward progression. These sperm are preferentially selected ahead of sperm that remain swimming freely. Our scientists isolate the bound sperm and inject them into the eggs following the standard ICSI process.

HA ICSI cannot be used if natural insemination has been recommended.

Why is HA-ICSI recommended, and will it increase the success of my treatment?

Your fertility specialist may recommend HA-ICSI if you've had previous IVF treatment with poor fertilisation or poor embryo development. HA-ICSI may also be recommended for patients who've had a sperm test which indicated high levels of DNA fragmentation.

PATIENT INFORMATION

HA-ICSI

Adjuvant therapy

Immature sperm, or sperm with reduced DNA integrity may have trouble fertilising the egg and may be less likely to carry normal genetic material. Some studies have demonstrated lower rates of DNA fragmentation in hyaluronan-selected sperm, and improved embryo development when SpermSlow has been used compared to standard sperm selection.

HA-ICSI doesn't change or improve the quality of sperm in the sample, however it may help by favouring selection of the strongest sperm to improve ICSI outcomes. It is important to note HA-ICSI won't overcome other important factors which can affect outcomes, such as patient age and egg quality.

Are there risks to using HA-ICSI in my IVF cycle?

HA-ICSI is a non-invasive technique performed on a semen sample as an additional step in the ICSI process. Whilst its benefit is not proven, there is no evidence to suggest HA-ICSI has any negative impact on the success of treatment, nor does it carry any additional known risks for the child born as a result of the treatment, when compared to standard ICSI.

What are the costs?

There is an additional fee of \$250* to include HA-ICSI in your cycle. If HA-ICSI has been recommended by your fertility specialist, our Patient Service Officers will provide you with an itemised treatment quote prior to commencing treatment.

*Price current May 2022, however subject to change.

The information provided above is intended for educational purposes only and should not be used as a substitute or replacement for medical advice received from a medical professional. It is important to discuss your individual circumstances and situation with your treating doctor.