



養和醫院

HONG KONG SANATORIUM & HOSPITAL

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HKSH IVF Centre Enhances Service to Meet Greater Demand Full Range of Fertility Treatment Satisfies Patients' Needs

(18 March 2008, Hong Kong) The Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital announces expansion and enhancement of its IVF (In-vitro Fertilization) Centre today. The IVF Centre was established in 1986 and brought the first “test-tube” baby in Hong Kong. Over the years, the Centre has assisted a large number of couples who had infertility caused by male or female factors to realize their desire for a family. In view of the growing demand for fertility treatment in recent years, the Centre has undertaken a major expansion and at the same time, to introduce new services to clients.

The 3,600 ft newly renovated IVF Centre provides pleasant and private environment to patients. With state-of-the-art equipment and managed by a highly skilled medical team, the Centre looks forward to serving many more clients. In the past few years, the IVF Centre has seen a sustained increase in patient load each year, and by 2007, 900 couples were treated. With the new, expanded facilities, it is envisioned that more needy couples may be helped in a comfortable setting.

Besides, the IVF Centre is introducing a new storage service for gametes, embryos and ovarian tissue for clients. It is the only institution in Hong Kong to offer such storage service.

In January 2008, the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong (FPAHK) closed its Semen Bank, which was the only one of its kind in Hong Kong. An arrangement was made to transfer this service to the IVF Centre of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital.

“While undertaking this transfer is motivated largely by civic responsibilities, we do envisage a demand for storage of gametes – sperms and eggs – as well as embryos, and even ovarian tissue for the sake of preserving fertility. This is particularly useful in cancer patients. For example, breast cancer patients are presenting younger, and they are cured more successfully, thus making child birth a realistic choice,” said Dr. Milton Leong, Director, IVF Centre, Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital.

Major Fertility Services At a Glance:

□ IVF (In-Vitro Fertilization)

IVF is a method of assisted reproduction technology that involves removing egg(s) from the ovary after ovulation induction, inseminating it with sperm in a culture dish in a controlled environment of the laboratory and, after fertilization, replacing the resulting embryo(s) back into the womb.



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□ ICSI (Intra-Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection)

For IVF a critical number of motile sperm is necessary to achieve fertilization. With severe cases of male subfertility, when that critical number of motile sperm cannot be retrieved from a sperm-poor ejaculate (oligospermia), each surgically retrieved egg can be individually injected with a single motile sperm by microsurgical technique into the egg cytoplasm (egg-white), a procedure referred to as ICSI.

□ AH (Assisted Hatching)

Assisted hatching is a laboratory procedure designed to enhance implantation or attachment of dividing embryos to the wall of the womb.

□ IVM (In-Vitro Maturation)

IVM is a revolutionary new procedure, especially suitable for patients with polycystic ovaries (PCO). It also allows for natural cycle IVF.

□ Storage Service

With advanced technology and state-of-the-art equipment, the Centre provides storage service for gametes, embryos and ovarian tissue.

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