

Solutions designed as a result of studies carried out by Institut Marquès

Embryomobile and Babypod: Spanish technology that provides peace of mind to parents-to-be

- The Embryomobile application allows parents to watch the evolution of the embryos live, all day, using their mobile phone.
- Babypod is the first and only device that allows the foetus to listen to clear music and voice recordings inside the uterus.
- Both solutions reduce the levels of anxiety in parents-to-be during assisted reproduction and pregnancy.

Barcelona, 22 of February, 2016 -. Assisted reproduction and pregnancy can create high levels of anxiety in the future parents. The two most stressful moments are during fertilisation and the development of the embryo in the lab, and after the implantation while waiting for the pregnancy test.

Institut Marquès Barcelona has developed some researches in order to make the wait easier and reduce the anxiety of all patients internationally. Embryomobile and Babypod are the results of these researches: two solutions designed to help parents get more directly involved during all phases of the process and reduce their stress.

Embryo development live

Since the lack of control or information is one of the reasons of stress on the first phase of the assisted reproduction treatment, Institut Marquès launched a service that allows the patients to watch the evolution of their embryos live, all day, using their phone.





Embryomobile is an application that allows parents-to-be to "enter" the in vitro fertilisation lab and watch their embryos in real time from home or any other location, with total transparency and in the same way as the embryologists, from fertilisation until the transfer into the uterus 5 days after.

More than 3.000 patients have already used this system. A survey carried out by Institut Marquès and presented at the European Society of Human Reproduction Congress (ESHRE) reveals that, for most patients, the experience is "moving" and "amazing", and also helps them reduce the levels of anxiety.

Dr Marisa López-Teijón, director of Institut Marquès, states that "being able to check the state of the embryos gives a feeling of control and reduces uncertainty. Parents-to-be maintain a positive involvement during the process".

Vaginal music while waiting

Institut Marquès is also developing a study to analyse the **effect of vaginal music vibrations while waiting for the Beta results**, i.e. the phase between the transfer of the embryo and the pregnancy test (between 10 and 14 days) and one of the most anxious moments. The study is carried out using the device Babypod, which plays music in the vagina. Babypod is like a little loudspeaker, very easy to use, and without risk. It's inserted like a tampon and connected to the mobile phone to play music.

300 patients have already been part of the trial (40 of them were from the UK, 36 from France and 45 from Spain). Their first impressions show that, in 80% of cases, the use of Babypod during the Beta-wait reduces anxiety significantly. The device is placed the same day of the embryo transfer and for the following days until the pregnancy test (approx. 20 minutes in the morning and at night).

80% of patients have confirmed that using the device made them feel more relaxed and even more optimistic, as they felt they were doing "something useful to improve the right development of the pregnancy".

The study continues in order to find out if music vibrations can also improve the activation of the endometrium and, therefore, facilitate the implantation of the embryo. The trial on embryo implantation will include a total of 900 patients and it's open to all women who need an assisted reproductive treatment.



Babypod during pregnancy

Research on the effects of music at the beginning of life is a strong commitment to Research, Development and Innovation –which Institut Marquès is already offering to patients from fertilisation until foetal stimulation.



With the scientific research on foetal hearing recently published in the magazine '<u>Ultrasound</u>' (BMUS: British Medical Ultrasound Society), Institut Marquès proved that foetuses respond to the Babypod by moving. This happens from week 16 of gestation, when they are only 11 cm. When foetuses hear vaginal music they wake up and move the mouth and tongue, as if they were trying to vocalize.

Babypod is also very useful during the ultrasounds as the movement caused by it produces a clearer image of the foetus' structure. This device is already being commercialized, so that all pregnant women can share with their babies the joy of music and use it during the ultrasounds to see the reactions of the babies.

About Institut Marquès

Institut Marquès Barcelona is a centre of international renown in Gynaecology, Obstetrics and Assisted Reproduction. As well as in Barcelona and Milan, Institut Marquès is also in London, Dublin and Kuwait.

Our centre, with lots of experience on complicated cases, helps people from more than 50 countries to bring their dream of becoming parents to life. Institut Marquès has the highest pregnancy success rates (IVF with Egg Donation: 89%).

As a leader in innovation, Institut Marquès develops an important line of research on the benefits of music at the beginning of life and foetal stimulation. For more information visit our Website: www.institutomarques.com