

Couple in UK, embryo in Barcelona: direct connection thanks to the Internet

- **The Institut Marques clinic is the first to make it possible for couples who are undergoing a fertility treatment to see the development of their embryos online.**
- **British Patients are thrilled with the experience.**
- **The results were presented in the last annual meeting of the European Society of Human Reproduction (ESHRE) in London.**

Is it possible for a couple in UK to see how their embryos develop in a clinic in Barcelona from their mobile phone? The answer is yes.

The fertility clinic [Institut Marquès](#), which welcomes hundreds of British couples every year, presented an exclusive web application in the last meeting of the ESHRE (European Society for Human Reproduction) which, for the first time ever, enables couples who are undergoing a treatment at this clinic to see online how their embryos are developing in the [Embryoscope](#) located in the IVF laboratory in Barcelona center.

The Embryoscope is an advanced incubator with a built-in video camera that records images of the developing embryos 24 hours a day. In other fertility clinics that have this technology, these images are seen only by the embryologists who are working in the lab. But Institut Marquès wanted to share the experience with the future parents. This way, the patients, before travelling to Barcelona for the embryos to be transferred to the woman, can see how they develop and how they multiply their cells within hours, from their home country or anywhere else.

To see this first development close up is exciting and surprising, according to the data collected by the centre presented last July at the annual meeting of the European Society of Human Reproduction (ESHRE) in London.

“Assisted reproductive processes usually involve anxiety: the couple feels uncertainty, lack of control and fear that their dream of having a child does not come true, especially when they have had to travel abroad and there are other stress factors. To be able to check the state of their embryos that are in another

country from home makes them feel more relaxed and involved in the process," says Dr. Victoria Walker, fertility consultant of Institut Marques.

Some comments of the patients

- It's definitely incredible. It's an awesome view of the origin of a human life. I've studied Biology and my husband and made me feel really rewarded and full of joy for being the witnesses of such an amazing event!
- I have seen the creation of life and it is something very special when you know they are yours.
- It has been and fantastic emotion to receive the email and can connect.
- It's amazing to see the development and somewhat overwhelming at the same time and obviously with excitement of what possibilities may lay ahead of us.
- I feel hope, joy and curiosity. We are not biologists but we can infer what we are seeing.
- Excited and scared. Can not believe they are all ours.
- Truly overwhelmed and very excited knowing this is the first stage of development towards an embryo being created.
- Makes you feel more involved and can relate earlier to embryo.
- I feel infinitely small before the miracle of life. I look at them with curiosity and I already think that I can even recognise each of them by their differences.
- Overwhelmed and excited knowing that it is the first phase of development of what could become my children.
- It has been wonderful to experience so closely the evolution of the beginning of the life of which I am convinced will be my children... both me and my close friends and family with whom I was able to share the video, experienced beautiful emotions of bonding and energy. Feeling more confident and cheerful ... I am convinced it will help me reach my fervent desire to become a mom.

More information:

www.institutmarques.com

www.fertilityexperiences.com

