

Embryoscope, an embryo incubator that increases the chances of pregnancy

- Institut Marquès presents a new system for the couples undergoing In Vitro Fertilization to watch their embryos through the Internet
- Baptized as "the movie of the beginning of life", this technology allows to observe the development of the embryo from the very moment of fertilization

Barcelona, May 16th 2012 - Institut Marquès presents a clinical case study at the SEF Congress, which starts today in Granada: pregnancy achieved by an Irish couple after fifteen failed treatments undergone in other countries (seven insemination cycles, four IVF cycles with sperm donation, and four cycles with egg donation) that has finally been possible with the help of Embryoscope.

Embryoscope is a cutting-edge incubator endowed with a video camera that allows the observation of embryos obtained from <u>In Vitro Fertilization</u> during all 24 hours a day. It shows embryologists which are the best embryos with greatest possibilities of evolving into pregnancy.

In the case exposed at the conference, the Embryoscope allowed to observe that four out of the six embryos presented multinucleation, more than a nucleus per cell, and, thus, had little chances of developing. This abnormality was observed 43 hours after fertilization thanks to the 24 hours per day permanent monitorization system integrated in Embryoscope, which would have been overlooked using a conventional incubator.



2 cell embryo. The red circles indicate the unique nucleus in each cell.

2 cell embryo. The red circle indicates there are 3 nuclei in one of the two cells = multinucleated.

Thus, multinucleated embryos were discarded and only the two that didn't present the abnormality were transfered to the woman, giving place to a twin pregnancy.

According to Dr. Esther Velilla, Director of the Reproductive Biology Service at Institut Marquès, "the Embryoscope increases pregnancy rates because it gives us valuable information about the development of the embryos without having to extract them from the incubator to watch them under the microscope. We must take into account that, in natural conditions, embryos find themselves inside the uterus in a very stable environment, and Embryoscope simulates these conditions as they don't get exposed to severe changes."

For the first time, a couple can observe their embryo's development from home

Coinciding with the SEF congress, Institut Marquès presents an innovative system for patients who are undergoing an In Vitro Fertilization Cycle to observe, through the Internet, the development of their embryos from their homes before these are transfered to the woman's uterus. Thus, they can "enter" the In Vitro Fertilization laboratory from their home or any other place to watch their embryos like embryologists do.

This system has been developed exclusively, and for the first time in the world, by Institut Marquès in collaboration with Jollet Networks and JM Desarrollo.

"Patients undergoing In Vitro Fertilization cycles constantly ask themselves how their embryos may be. Its fantastic that they are now able to see it by themselves and know what is happening at every moment," remarks Dr. Marisa López-Teijón, Head of the Assisted Reproduction Service at Institut Marquès.