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HAMSTER EGG PENETRATION TEST

The zona-free hamster egg-human sperm penetration assay is a test used to evaluate the ability of the sperm to penetrate an egg. It is also an indicator of the number of sperm required for fertilization in the in vitro fertilization procedure. Techniques are utilized to enhance penetration if the value is low. Hamsters are injected with hormones to produce many eggs; the eggs are collected and the outer egg membrane dissolved with chemicals. After the sperm sample has been prepared with special techniques, it is added to approximately 30-50 eggs. Many hours later the eggs are examined for penetration by the sperm. The human sperm does not fertilize the hamster eggs.

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) The hamster test can be carried out with either fresh or frozen sperm. Fresh sperm, however, is preferred and an appointment can be arranged for fresh sample hamster test by calling 581-3740. You should call for an appointment 2-3 weeks in advance.
- 2) Refrain from sexual activity for at least 2 days.
- 3) The sample may be collected at home, however, special instructions should be obtained from Andrology - 581-3740.
- 4) Samples for frozen tests will be accepted Mondays through Fridays, preferably during morning hours. Call Andrology at 581-3740 for instructions and appointments.
- 5) Be certain to inform the Andrology Lab if you are an **IVF patient**.