The spectrum of embryo transfer days

To the Editor:

The article by Wilson et al. (1) regarding integration of blastocyst transfer for all patients confirms that, as shown by other researchers, this is a viable option for an in vitro program. However, their conclusions that day 5 ETs improve success rates cannot be specifically supported by their data. Their day 3 data is from January 1997 to December 1998; their day 5 data is from June 1998 to December 2000. It is very likely (and hopefully the case) that pregnancy rates would have improved over that time without any change in day of transfer. In addition, there is a difference in stimulation protocols used during the time periods. Although they indicate that they saw no differences, meta-analysis (2) has shown that pregnancy rates are higher with recombinant gonadotropins (used exclusively in the later time period) than with urinary products (partially used in the earlier time period).

We have looked at our data regarding day 3 vs. day 5 transfer over a time period in which the earlier transfers tended to be on day 5 and the later transfers tended to be on day 3. Patients less than 36 years for whom we electively replaced two embryos (the patients who seemed to benefit most from blastocyst transfer in the report by Wilson et al. (1)) had comparable clinical pregnancy rates with day 3 and day 5 transfers (73% and 67%, respectively). Clearly, our data has the same shortcomings as that of Wilson et al. However, if comparable pregnancy rates can be shown, day 3 transfer is advantageous in that it seems to result in a lower incidence of monozygotic twins and thus, a lower incidence of triplets (5.6% in Wilson et al. (1)) after transfer of two embryos.

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References


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Estrogen levels and thrombophilia—An intervening variable or a confounder?

To the Editor:

We read with great interest the manuscript of Dulitzky et al. (1) investigating the prevalence of different types of thrombophilia in women suffering from severe ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS). We were really surprised about the high frequency of different markers of thrombophilia found in the studied population. These investigators...