

New England Fertility Institute improves IVF success

Under the direction of founder and director Gad Lavy, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., the New England Fertility Institute (NEFI) has already achieved a higher success rate than many other fertility practices. Dr. Lavy travels the world to learn about new studies that improve the chances of pregnancy. Now those chances are dramatically higher, thanks to research done by Dr. Nava Dekel of the renowned Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel, and which may be an option for patients at NEFI.

By serendipity, researchers found that endometrial biopsies done shortly before an IVF cycle resulted in a much higher rate of pregnancy. These biopsies, performed to track the levels of protein in women who have suffered from long-term infertility, made the uterus more receptive to implantation. Repeated studies by Dr. Dekel and her researchers on a group of 45 volunteers and a control study of 89 women determined that this procedure of making small incisions, as done in biopsies, at least doubled the chances of pregnancy.

Endometrial biopsies have been safely done for other reasons by gynecologists everywhere. Dr. Dekel is still searching for the body's exact mechanism that turns an unreceptive uterus into one that sustains implantation. This answer may be similar to the way healthy growth occurs after a plant or tree is pruned.

Because of its safety and its promise of good outcomes, Dr. Lavy and his team at NEFI plan to offer this option, called Endometrial Activation, to women who have had multiple failures with IVF cycles. Such failure "may be a result of embryo factor or endometrial factor," explains Dr. Lavy. "Endometrial

receptivity is affected by estrogen, progesterone, and blood flow delivering these hormones to the endometrium ... However, an endometrial component should be suspected in cases where embryo quality appears to be good."

The biopsy is done during the luteal phase of a woman's cycle several days before the implantation of fertilized eggs. Endometrial Activation is something to be considered by women who have had not been able to get pregnant despite multiple attempts with assisted reproduction.

For more information on Endometrial Activation and other treatments offered by the New England Fertility Institute, call 203-325-3200 for an appointment in their Stamford, Shelton, or Hamden office. "Life begins here." 1275 Summer Street, Stamford. www.nefertility.com

