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Strategies to Improve the Care of MS in Women

Infertility

OVERVIEW

Infertility is defined as the inability to get pregnant after one year of trying. This is experienced by about 6% of married women aged 15 to 44 years. In vitro fertilization (IVF) is a procedure where eggs are surgically removed, combined with sperm, then returned to the woman. Infertile women with MS may consider this technique.

RELEVANCE FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

There are data that if women with MS undergo in vitro fertilization and don't become pregnant, they are at risk for increased disease activity in the subsequent three months. This seems to be associated with use of some (but not all) agents that are used to hyperstimulate the ovaries to induce release of multiple eggs. This is important to discuss with the fertility doctor; choosing preferred agents is important for patients with MS.

ABOUT YOU

Which statements describe you? (*check all that apply*)

- I am having difficulty getting pregnant.
- I have been trying to get pregnant for _____ months
- I am thinking about trying in vitro fertilization.
- I don't know what effect MS has on in vitro fertilization.
- I don't know if MS affects the ability to become pregnant.
- I would like more information on in vitro fertilization.

RESOURCES

<http://www.webmd.com/infertility-and-reproduction/guide/in-vitro-fertilization>

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/767213>

<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-to-make-a-baby-in-a-lab-nassim-assefi-and-brian-a-levine>