In vitro fertilization and embryo transfer as a treatment for infertility

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Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment from a member of INAHTA. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

Citation
Corabian P. In vitro fertilization and embryo transfer as a treatment for infertility. Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) 1997: 35

Authors' objectives
The intent of this report is to inform medical practitioners and the public on the current status of in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer (IVF-ET) as a treatment for various types of infertility, and on its use and coverage in Canada.

Authors' conclusions
Reliable conclusions cannot be drawn on the effectiveness of IVF-ET for most indications. The available evidence supports the use of IVF-ET as a treatment of infertility related to damaged, occluded or absent Fallopian tubes. For other indications, the present evidence does not establish whether IVF-ET is more effective than receiving conventional treatment or no treatment at all. Long-term, well-designed, prospective controlled clinical trials are required to determine when and for what indications IVF-ET is effective and what its long-term health effects are on both mothers and their babies.

Final publication URL

Indexing Status
Subject indexing assigned by CRD

MeSH
Embryo Transfer; Fertilization in Vitro; Infertility

Language Published
English

Country of organisation
Canada

Province or state
Alberta

English summary
An English language summary is available.

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AccessionNumber
31998008143

Date bibliographic record published