

**RANDY S. MORRIS M.D.**  
BOARD CERTIFIED REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY  
AND INFERTILITY

**PROCEDURES CONSENT**

**OOCYTE RETRIEVAL** (Egg Retrieval, Egg Harvest, Follicle Aspiration)

Oocyte retrieval is the removal of eggs from the ovary for the purpose of producing a pregnancy. A transvaginal ultrasound probe is used to visualize the ovaries and the egg containing follicles within the ovaries. A long, hollow needle can be threaded alongside of the ultrasound probe. The needle, which can be seen on ultrasound, can then be directed into the follicle and the contents aspirated. The aspirated material includes follicular fluid, oocytes (eggs), and granulosa (egg-supporting) cells. Intravenous anesthesia is used adjunctively to reduce discomfort.

Risks

*Infection:* Bacteria normally present in the vagina may be inadvertently transferred into the abdominal cavity by the needle. These bacteria may cause an infection of the uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries, or other intra-abdominal organs. The estimated incidence of infection after egg retrieval is less than 0.5%. Treatment of infections could require the use of oral or intravenous antibiotics. Severe infections occasionally require surgery to remove infected tissue. Prophylactic antibiotics are used commonly before egg retrievals and may reduce the risk of pelvic or abdominal infection.

*Bleeding:* A needle is used to pass through the vaginal wall and into the ovary. Both of these structures contain blood vessels. In addition, there are other blood vessels that are nearby. Small amounts of blood loss are common during egg retrievals (8-25%). The incidence of major bleeding problems has been estimated to be less than 0.1%

*Trauma:* Despite the use of ultrasound guidance, it is possible to damage other intra-abdominal organs during an egg retrieval. Previous reports in the medical literature have noted damage to the bowel, appendix, bladder, ureters, and ovary. Damage to internal organs may result in the need for additional treatment such as surgery. This appears to be a very rare complication.

*Anesthesia:* The use of anesthesia during an egg retrieval can produce unintended complications such as allergic reaction, hypotension, nausea or vomiting.

*Failure:* It is possible that the aspiration will fail to obtain any eggs or the eggs may be abnormal or of poor quality, or otherwise fail to produce a viable pregnancy.

Side effects

Pain from needle insertion

Pain from manipulation of the uterus and/or ovaries

Side effects from anesthesia use such as nausea, vomiting, or drowsiness.

I, acknowledge that I have read the above consent in its entirety and have had any questions answered completely and to my satisfaction.

I understand the risks, consequences, and potential benefits of oocyte retrieval.

**My signature below indicates my consent to undergo oocyte retrieval and that I am exercising independent judgement as to the use of such procedures.** I understand that I may withdraw my consent at any time.

X \_\_\_\_\_