

Letters to the Editor

Normal and Abnormal Oocytes Observed During Assisted Reproductive Technique (ART) Procedures

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To the editor

Congratulations on the launch of a very interesting journal. I am sure under your leadership this peer reviewed journal would be well received and lot of informative articles will be submitted. There was a need for such a journal and I feel that this is the right step to share the knowledge.

I read the article on the quality of abnormal oocytes with interest and could not resist making the following comments:

a. Since most of the photomicrographs are of denuded oocytes, did the authors consider the time the oocytes were exposed to hyaluronidase enzyme and time taken to denude the oocytes? It is well documented that longer exposure time in the enzyme would lead to shrinkage of cytoplasm and expansion of PV space.

b. Empty Zona or cracked zona again are normally associated with poor denuding techniques.

c. Endoplasmic reticulum requires higher magnification than normally available through an inverted microscope. Did the authors confirm this observation at EM or through staining of the oocytes.

d. What would be important is to correlate the fragmented polar body with the results of PGS of polar body as a direct correlation has been reported.

Well done and once again congratulations.

Dr. Jayant G Mehta

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Queen's Hospital.

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Author's reply

We thank Dr. Jayanth Mehta for his comments.

All the oocytes after pick up were washed and incubated for minimum of 1 hour before denudation. For denudation the oocytes were exposed to hyaluronidase for a maximum of 45 seconds. The time taken for denudation was a maximum of 1 minute which was done under IVF chamber which has CO₂ supply and warm stage. If the oocyte corona cells could not be denuded within 1 min, they were kept for incubation and were denuded later with a stripper.

Regarding the question on empty or cracked zona associated with poor denuding techniques, we feel that damage to oocyte zona can be due to the sharpness of the prepared glass pipette during denudation. Here we

use readymade flexipets of size 135 & 140 which is non embryo toxic and will cause less damage to the oocyte. However we feel trying with the bigger size of 170 size stripper followed by 135 size may reduce the incidence of broken zona.

On your question on endoplasmic reticulum, the endoplasmic reticulum observations were made out with the inverted microscope under 40 x magnification. sERCs can be clearly distinguished morphologically from fluid filled vacuoles under the inverted microscope. Cytoplasmic vacuolation is considered as cellular degeneration (Zamboni et al., 1972) and oocyte atresia (Nayudu et al., 1989). For some oocytes it was difficult to differentiate and since we don't have electron microscope or stains we consider those oocytes as vacuolated.

As we are not doing PGS (Pre-implantation Genetic Screening) we are not able to comment on your final question.

References:

Zamboni L, Thompson RS and Smith DM (1972) Fine morphology of human oocyte maturation in vitro. *BiolReprod* 7,425- 457.

Nayudu PL, Lopata A, Jones GM, Gook DA, Bourne HM, Sheather SJ, Brown TC and Johnston WI (1989) An analysis of human oocytes and follicles from stimulated cycles: oocyte morphology and associated follicular fluid characteristics. *Hum Reprod* 4,558- 567.

Dr.Savitha (savibds@yahoo.co.in)

Correspondence

To the Editor

Congratulations on bringing out the first issue. Very interesting and appropriate articles. I especially enjoyed the one on Medical emblems. If I may, a couple of comments. Would it be possible to have the issue in a PDF format? It would be easier to load pages and read. Also, on the Editorial page, you are listed as the Chief Editor and on the contact page as the Editor.

Dr.Sunder Mudaliar (mudaliar@ucsd.edu).

Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine
University of California, San Diego.

To the Editor

The get up, format and contents are good. As you go along you could add career vacancies, information about training in hospitals in India and abroad, a quiz programme for staff and students, articles on medical insurance in various countries, information about consumers rights, information on latest technologies like laser, laparoscopy, bed side procedures and interventions. You could also include pathological conferences ets. clippings from reputed journals, caption like do you know etc. A good beginning has no doubt been made.

Dr. M. S. Ramachandran (drmsra@gmail.com)

Retd. Director, Institute of Medicine,
Madras Medical College.

To the Editor

Congratulations on spearheading this very commendable effort!. I am sure it will be a "must - read" publication for students , young doctors and senior practitioners alike.

In a day and age when some doctors do a cut and paste job with papers I am glad the thrust is on original and peer reviewed work.

I read your article on Semen Analysis with interest and loved your sentence about the seminal volume of the same man over a period of time being likened to the stock market fluctuations.

The piece on Oocytes by Embryologist Dr.Savitha , Dr Radha Pandiyan and Dr Ramesh Raja was educative while the piece on the Medical Emblem by Dr Ramesh Rao was thought provoking..

The layout is neat and easy on the eye.

All the very best in this very creative assignment and may you have hundreds of hits in the months and days ahead!

Dr.SudhaUmashanker (sudha.ganesha@gmail.com)

Senior Journalist.
Chennai.

To the Editor

Good work. Enjoyed reading the articles.

Would appreciate having a section on updates which are essential to know eg. interaction of Omeprazole and Clopidogrel.

Mangement of male infertility you started with sperm analysis - please tell what you would do if pus cells are present in the semen specimen etc.

Dr. Nanda Kumar (nkshyla@gmail.com)

Director, Gudalur Adivasi Hospital.



Bragatheeswarar Temple, Tanjore, India

To the Editor

Congratulations on setting up a new Journal. Is it indexed by Index Medicus and the Science Citation Index? It would be a good idea to be so.

The first edition looks very good.

Would you like me to be an international editor. As such, I would be able to help by inviting contributions from authors based in different countries. I would be able to straddle neuroscience, developmental biology, fertility and regenerative medicine.

Late Dr. Sammy Lee.

Sammy Lee, Visiting Professor in Cell and Developmental Biology, University College London, passed away suddenly on 21 July 2012. Sammy was a great friend to many in the community and he will be remembered not only for his research, but also for being a skilled, patient and kind teacher. He will be greatly missed by his family and colleagues. In accordance with Sammy's wishes, a fund to support CDB students has been set up and can be accessed via <http://www.justgiving.com/Sammy-Lee-2012> or cheques can be sent to the Alumni Office.

To the Editor

Congratulations to your team for this endeavour! It is amazing for the University to have a Journal of its own. I think this is the first of its kind in the private universities in India. Congratulations to Dr. Savitha for the nice article!

Dr. Priya Kannan MBBS., M.Med., MCE

Lecturer, Medical Genetics, The Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University, Chennai. Embryologist, Garbba Rakshambigai Fertility Centre, Chennai.

To the Editor

Your journal is looking great. I will be happy to help.

Prof. Arunasalam Dharmarajan,

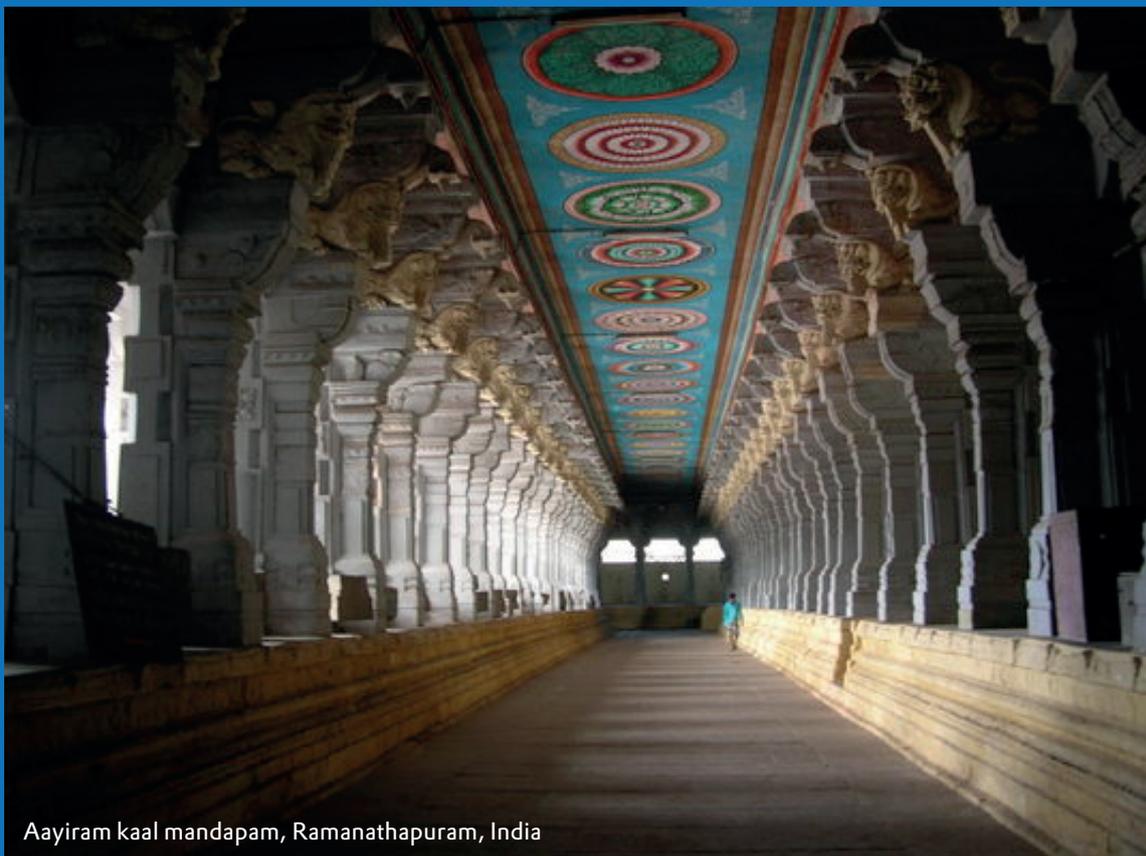
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To the Editor

I was very impressed by your new Medical Journal, thank you for giving me a copy.

Dr. Richard J. Paulson, MD

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Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Chief, Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California



Aayiram kaal mandapam, Ramanathapuram, India