

Information Sheet: IUI

What is IUI? What does it involve? What are the halachic considerations?

After a full examination and elimination of external factors that would make fertility difficult the doctor may suggest IUI (intra uterine insemination). Generally IUI is only indicated in one or more of the following cases:

- Mild male factor
- An unsuccessful course of ovulation induction
- Advanced maternal age

Defining Intra-uterine Insemination (IUI)

In the aforementioned cases, conception may be hindered by the inability of sperm to make the journey from the vagina to the fallopian tubes . IUI aims to deliver healthy sperm as near to the fallopian tubes as possible immediately prior to ovulation .

IUI begins with the collection of a semen sample and its delivery to the laboratory. There, the sample undergoes processing by centrifuge to obtain the optimal concentration of healthy sperm. In the doctor's office, the concentrate is injected via catheter through the vagina directly into the uterus.

Success Rates

The odds of success are reported to fall in the range of just under 6 percent to as high as 26 percent per cycle. The overall success rate seems to be between 15-20 percent per cycle.

Halachic Considerations:

Semen Collection

See the article on semen collection and its halachic issues.

Timing of IUI

There is a difference of opinion among halachic authorities as to the permissibility of performing IUI while the woman is a niddah. While all authorities agree that a woman is prohibited from intercourse while she is a niddah, they disagree as to whether the prohibition extends to include conception.

In cases where the medical indication suggests an IUI prior to mikvah immersion, consult your Puah counsellor or Rabbinic advisor.

תהילים קכו:ה "הזרעים בדמעה ברינה יקצרו"
"Those who sow with tears shall reap with joy" Psalms 126:5

IUI & Niddah

IUI does not generally cause uterine bleeding. As such, the woman should not become *niddah* as a result of this procedure. Any mild bleeding that does occur is usually the result of the instrument used to hold the cervix open.

Rare cases of significant bleeding may occur. This may be uterine bleeding (which will render a woman *niddah*). In such cases consult your Puah counsellor or Rabbinic advisor.

If the IUI was performed when the woman was *niddah* (see halachic discussion above) consult your Puah counsellor or Rabbinic advisor as to how to proceed with the calculation of the seven clean days.

Supervision

It is essential to have the process supervised. IUI supervision begins with the delivery of the sperm sample to the laboratory. As noted in the discussion of supervision, supervision should be scheduled as early as possible.

Summary

- Semen is processed to produce a high concentration of healthy sperm
- IUI delivers sperm to the uterus near the fallopian tubes
- Halachic considerations include:
 - a. Method of sperm collection
 - b. Timing of IUI
 - c. Niddah
 - d. Supervision
- IUI success rates are between 15-20%