



The Fertility Center

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A Word From The Doctors on their 20th Anniversary.....

Is it hard to believe 20 years have gone by? *Beyond belief. We are celebrating a significant milestone for the practice.*

Has there been significant scientific stride in infertility?

Yes, there have been revolutionary changes over the past 20 years, including ICSI (Intracytoplasmic sperm injection) and PGD (preimplantation genetic diagnosis) as well as evolutionary changes in lab culture techniques that have greatly improved success. A few short years ago the only option would have been to use donor sperm.

Has there been an increase in causes of infertility over the past 20 years?

No, really just increased awareness and there are more reproductive endocrinologists making it easier for patients to access care.

Do you see any specific cause more often than any others?

Male factor, ovulatory dysfunction and tubal factor including endometriosis; the three most prevalent infertility causes. Fortunately, there are successful treatment options.

Has patient successes increased over the last 20 years and if so why?

Yes, IVF success rates have more than doubled over the past 20 years. This is primarily due to improved medication regimens and laboratory culture techniques. There has been a decrease in costs allowing broader access for patients.

What is the most significant change regarding infertility that you have seen in the last 20 years? *Certainly the implementation of ICSI in the mid-90's*

changed the way we fertilize eggs and opened up a new option for couples with a severe male factor problem.

What do you now know that you did not know 20 years ago?

How to better assess female fertility potential with hormone testing and early ultrasound. Also IVF success is almost twice as high if hydrosalpinx (blocked, dilated fallopian tube) is removed or closed before IVF is done.

How does seeing pictures of patients children make you feel?

It gives us further resolve to do whatever we can so our patients can have their dream of children come true.—Dr. Dodds

I have six siblings so I know the joy of having a close family. When I see pictures of the families that we have helped, I feel proud to have been involved by helping them experience this joy.

-Dr. Young

What new things are happening in the world of infertility?

1. Improved culture conditions and lab techniques have significantly improved IVF success.

2. More emphasis on lifestyle changes and proper nutrition have been significant for fertility patients.

3. Our ability to freeze eggs and sperm to help patients retain fertility before they begin chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

What is your favorite part of your profession?

Doing the ultrasound and showing a couple their new baby and letting them hear the heartbeat for the first time. We can't imagine anything better.—Dr. Dodds

There is no doubt that the best part of the day is performing the first OB ultrasound on a newly pregnant patient. The joy on their faces is why we do what we do.—Dr. Young

If you're a past or current patient of the Fertility Center, we cordially invite you to our 20th Anniversary Celebration! We're celebrating 20 years of excellence in infertility care, over 10,000 successful births, and a success rate that's in the top 5% nationally! It's our way of thanking you for putting your trust in our dedicated staff as you pursued your goal of starting a family.

WHEN: September 18, 2011 – 1-4 p.m.

WHERE: Outside the Center's offices at:

3230 Eagle Park Dr. NE., Suite 100

Grand Rapids, MI 49525

WHAT: The celebration will be a fun, family affair with a carnival and a picnic-like atmosphere, so bring all the children. We'll have a play gym for the kids along with other fun activities. There'll be food available, too catered from Yesterdog, a popular Grand Rapids tradition!

To reserve a spot at the Fair or for more information, call Amy Wade at 1-877-904-4483, ext. 128, or email at awade@mrvf.com.

Come help us celebrate and bring all the children and make it a family affair!

www.fertilitycentermi.com

For more information, blogs, past newsletters, FAQ's meet the staff, help and support and much, much more! Follow us on:



Drs - Dodds - Young - Leach

Fertility Medications

Many of our patients have been prescribed fertility medications. Whether they are oral or injected, filling these prescriptions can be confusing and expensive. Here is some information that may help make your fertility journey a little easier.

Can my prescriptions be filled at any pharmacy? Yes.

Should I just get them filled anywhere? Not necessarily. All pharmacies can charge different prices (even within the same chain) and many pharmacies don't keep the medication in stock. While these pharmacies can order the medications, they are probably not very familiar with this class of medications.

In that case, where should I go? Our staff is aware of some local pharmacies that carry these medications and offer competitive pricing. There are also mail order pharmacies that specialize in fertility medications and offer some of the best prices and quality customer service.

I have prescription coverage; won't they be covered by my normal co-pay? Maybe. Many insurance companies have placed fertility medications in a special category and the coverage may have

different co-pay or the medications might not be covered.

How can I find out about coverage?

By contacting your insurance carrier. Another source of assistance is 'Fertility Lifelines™' at 1-866-Lets-try. (866.538.7869)

One type of FSH injectable medication is covered but not the one my doctor ordered. Can we switch? Why didn't my doctor give me that one to begin with? For most of our patients it is possible to change the prescription to the medication that is covered. We try to order what we know will be covered. However, all insurance policies are different and it is close to impossible for the physician to ascertain which medications might be covered by a specific policy.

Is there a list of fertility medications so I can check on my coverage? Yes. The following medications can be used interchangeably: Reponex, Menopur, Bravelle, Follistim, Gonal F, Gonal F RFF, Gonal F multi-dose. Check with your doctor or nurse regarding your daily dosage.

Coming Events

FREE Seminar:

Having Trouble Getting Pregnant?

Date and Time: September 29 , 6:30-8pm

Location: The Fertility Center, Grand Rapids

Speakers: Dr. William Dodds and Amy Wade, RN

Advance reservations necessary:

contact Amy Wade at awade@mrivf.com

or 616.988.2229 ext 128

For more information, visit our website at

www.fertilitycentermi.com

introducing....

A free one-hour informal discussion on Stress & the impact it has on fertility

- ◇ Discuss & learn healthy ways to cope
- ◇ Practice stress-reducing techniques (wear comfortable clothing)
- ◇ Share questions, ideas, & concerns
- ◇ Meet others experiencing the infertility journey

For more information contact Kristin at 616.988.2229 x104 or email kblackwell@mrivf.com

exhale.

New Additions to our family...

