

Boon for childless couples as Lilavati Hospital gets new IVF machine

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SETTING a new precedent for the rest of the country, Lilavati Hospital has now equipped itself with a new microscope machine that will allow infertility specialists to pick the best of sperms for couples interested in conceiving through in-vitro fertilisation (IVF).

The machine, called the Intra-Cytoplasmic Morphologically Selected Sperm Injection (IMSI), helps magnify the image of the sperm 7,200 times, thereby allowing doctors to pick the best and healthiest sperms. The machine is an improvement over the earlier Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) technique, having the magnification capacity of 7200 as opposed to 200 of the IMSI.

The machine can be a boon to childless couples, allowing them to conceive through IVF, since sperm selection is a very important part of this technique. In cases where IVF is necessary, doctors use a medical micro-

scope attached to a computer to pick better sperms. Since the procedure of IVF is quite expensive, (Rs 80000-1, 00,000) couples will be able to invest in the technique with better hopes of success.

"Normally we are able to magnify 200 times and pick up and immobilise the sperms to later make an embryo. However, even though we have a high success rate, it is not always possible to make out genetically abnormal sperms at that time in the normal process," said infertility specialist at Lilavati,

Dr Hrishikesh Pai, who along with Dr Nandita Palshekar played a pivotal role in the introduction of the machine at the hospital.

Pai said that the higher magnification capacity of the IMSI technology would allow a much clearer measurement of the dimensions of the sperm, which will enhance the chances of successful fertilization. He also added that in spite of the machine being expensive, patients would not be charged extra for using it.