



The Shrewsbury and
Telford Hospital
NHS Trust

Patient Information

The Shropshire and Mid Wales

Fertility Centre

Endometrial Receptivity Assay

Shropshire and Mid Wales Fertility Centre

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Introduction

Some women undergoing fertility treatment do not become pregnant after several treatment cycles where good quality embryos have been transferred. This is called repeated implantation failure.

Several scientific studies suggest that the endometrium (the lining of the womb) is important for a healthy pregnancy to develop.

Some studies have shown that in couples with repeated implantation failure, the window of implantation (the time when the endometrium is ready for an embryo to implant) might have been missed. The theory is that some women with recurrent implantation failure are either pre-receptive (not ready) or post-receptive (past the ideal time) during this window. This means that the endometrium may not have been ready for the embryo and the woman may have had a better chance of becoming pregnant if the embryo had been transferred on a different day of the cycle.

The Endometrial Receptivity Assay (ERA)

A test has been developed to help to prevent implantation failure. This test is called the Endometrial Receptivity Assay (ERA). It should identify the window of implantation so that the fertility team know the ideal time for embryo transfer in that particular person and could increase the chances of becoming pregnant.

How is this done?

Anyone having an ERA test will already be familiar with a transfer cycle. A mock transfer cycle is performed (this may include scans and medication) but instead of transferring any embryos the ERA test is done instead. The procedure is similar to having a transfer but a small sample (biopsy) of the endometrium is taken for analysis at a laboratory. The fertility specialist will study the results of the test to determine the best day to transfer an embryo when you next come through for a real embryo or blastocyst transfer.

Will this increase my chances of success?

Some studies suggested that ERA resulted in a 73% pregnancy rate in patients with previous repeated implantation failure. However it is important to note that the regulators of fertility treatment in the UK, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) have not made any recommendations about the value of this test and we cannot be certain of any benefit from this procedure at the moment.

You may find the information given on the Cooper Genomics website helpful. <https://fertility.coopersurgical.com/products/erpeak-endometrial-receptivity-test/>

Cost of an ERA

Shropshire & Mid-Wales Fertility Unit are now able to offer this test for women who have experienced implantation failure with good-quality embryos. The test is not funded by the NHS and therefore will need to be paid for by the patient if they wish to have it. The mock cycle and test currently costs around £1000 plus the cost for your medicine.

For more information please contact the fertility unit on 01743 261202 and selecting option 2 to speak to a member of the team.

Contact details for more information

Useful telephone numbers

Fertility nursing team **01743 261202** or call the hospital switchboard on **01743 261000** and ask to be put through to the Fertility unit. Please note the department accepts calls from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. **Further information is available from;**

Patient Advise and Liaison Service (PALS)

We act on your behalf when handling patient and family concerns, liaising with staff, managers and where appropriate, relevant organisations to negotiate immediate or prompt solutions. We can also help you get support from other local or national agencies.

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Tel: 0800 783 0057 or 01743 261691

Princess Royal Hospital, Tel: 01952 282888

Other Sources of Information

NHS 111

A fast and easy way to get the right help, whatever the time. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

Telephone: 111 (free from a landline or mobile)

Website: www.nhs.uk

Patient UK

Provides leaflets on health and disease translated into 11 other languages as well as links to national support/self-help groups and a directory of UK health websites.

Website: www.patient.info

Special Needs Information

If you need any further help, for example with an interpreter or if you need this information in another format please contact the fertility unit to arrange this by calling (01743) 261202 and selecting option 2 or email sth-tr@shropshireivf.nhs.net

Website: www.sath.nhs.uk

www.shropshireivf.nhs.uk

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