



IVF PHOENIX

**ASSISTED HATCHING OF EMBRYOS
AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF INFORMED CONSENT BY PATIENT AND PARTNER**

Assisted hatching (AH) is a procedure in which the egg shell (zona pellucida) is mechanically or chemically opened to help release the embryo thereby increasing chances of implantation. This technique has been found to be useful in older women undergoing IVF and in embryos that have been cryopreserved (frozen).

Various methods have been used to accomplish assisted hatching: laser, acid Tyrode's, or mechanical piercing of the egg shell (zona pellucida). IVF Phoenix utilizes the mechanical and acid Tyrode's method

Description of procedure:

- The embryos are incubated to the 6-8cell stage of development.
- Individual embryos are then isolated and stabilized through micromanipulation.
- The egg shell or zona pellucida surrounding the embryo is pierced to allow release of the embryo and encourage implantation in the uterus.

Risks:

- Injury to the embryo resulting in the loss of the embryo.

Benefits:

- Potential for improved implantation and increased pregnancy rates.

There is no long-term data on pregnancies achieved with assisted hatching. Current clinical impressions suggest that there is no increased risk for genetic anomalies/birth defects seen in pregnancies conceived with assisted hatching procedure or intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), however, the data has yet to be collected and reviewed.

I/We agree to allow our embryos to undergo assisted hatching with the hope of improving my/our potential implantation and pregnancy rate.

I/We have had the opportunity to ask any questions. If I/we have any additional questions, they will be addressed by Dr. Couvaras or a member of his staff.

My/Our participation is voluntary. I/We understand that my/our insurance company may not pay for the above procedure and I/we will be personally responsible for the expenses incurred.

Patient signature

Date

Partner/Spouse signature

Date

Witness

Date

Revised: 2/8/02