

In the late morning or early afternoon of the day following retrieval, you will receive a call from the lab regarding your embryo report. We will let you know how many of the eggs have fertilized, and when the embryo transfer is scheduled.

EMBRYO TRANSFER

The procedure to place the embryos into the uterus is referred to as the “embryo transfer”. It is normally performed between 3 and 5 days after the egg retrieval. The transfer is done in the procedure room and does not require any sedation or medication.

We will ask you to arrive 30-45 minutes prior to the scheduled procedure and change clothes in preparation for the procedure. You will take the prescribed *Valium 10 mg*, **one hour prior to the transfer time** to help you relax. Additionally, you will place the last *progesterone suppository* in the vagina **when you first get up the morning of the transfer**. This may help the uterus soften and not contract during the transfer procedure. The placement of the embryos into the uterus is done with ultrasound guidance- but this time, the ultrasound will be done abdominally. It will be necessary for you to have a **moderately full bladder** when Dr. Donahue performs the transfer. Plan to **drink 2 to 3 glasses** (8 ounces) of fluid about **an hour before the scheduled transfer time**.

Husbands are encouraged to be present for the transfer procedure. Dr. Donahue will cleanse the cervix and vagina similar to the retrieval procedure and then do a ‘test pass’ of a catheter into the uterus. Once this is comfortably done, he will instruct the biologist in the lab to “load the embryos”. At this time, they are removed from the incubators, placed into the transfer catheter, and brought into the transfer room. Dr. Donahue will pass the very slender catheter through the cervix, and guide it to the proper location in the fundal area of the uterus. You will be able to watch on the ultrasound monitor as the embryos are expelled from the catheter into your uterus. The laboratory biologist will then check the catheter, under the microscope, to be sure it has been emptied of the embryos.

In order to give the uterus ample time to calm down, and a chance for the embryos to “settle in”, we will keep you here in the office for approximately 20-40 minutes after the transfer. You will need to lie flat for this time.