

Infertility

(January 2017)

Rationale

Infertility is a common condition that is defined as the inability of a couple to conceive after one year of intercourse without contraception. Both partners must be investigated.

Causal Conditions

(list not exhaustive)

- Female
 - a. Ovulatory dysfunction (e.g., hypogonadotropic hypogonadism, polycystic ovarian syndrome)
 - b. Tubal and peritoneal abnormalities (e.g., pelvic inflammatory disease [PID])
 - c. Uterine and cervical factors (e.g., fibroids)
- Male
 - a. Testicular dysfunction (e.g., hypogonadotropic hypogonadism, viral orchitis)
 - b. Post-testicular dysfunction (e.g., abnormal sperm transport)

Key Objectives

Given a couple with infertility, the candidate will diagnose the cause and complications, and will explain the therapeutic options.

Enabling Objectives

Given a couple with infertility, the candidate will

- list and interpret critical clinical findings, including those derived from an appropriate history and physical examination of both partners;

- list and interpret critical investigations, including
 - a. semen analysis;
 - b. tests confirming ovulation;
 - c. other laboratory tests (e.g., prolactin, thyroid-stimulating hormone);
- construct an effective initial management plan, including
 - a. counselling the couple regarding preconceptual use of folic acid;
 - b. counselling and educating the couple regarding diagnostic and therapeutic options;
 - c. determining whether either patient requires specialized care;
 - d. recommending changes to the workplace environment, if indicated;
 - e. providing counselling regarding psychosocial stresses, if indicated.