

The Journey



To us, having children represents happiness and love. For many couples, they are a living testament to their relationship and complete the family circle.

In many cases, it's been proven that fulfilling the wish to have a child can be difficult. Not being able to have your own children can be equally painful and stressful. The thought of being labeled "infertile" or "impotent" prevents many couples from seeking medical help.

Nowadays, not being able to have children does not have to be regarded as destiny anymore. The causes can be diagnosed and treated through a series of simple medical examinations.

Perhaps a simple cycle monitoring is all that is needed, the often so-called intrauterine insemination (IUI) (requires open fallopian tubes and normal sperm count), or together we can discuss artificial fertilization outside of the body (IVF/ICSI).

Besides the modern technology, high quality standards, and long-lasting experience in this sensitive field, our personal and customized care for the couple, provided in a relaxing and protected environment, contribute to treatment success.

It is our greatest wish to accompany every couple as best we can on their way to having a child.

Getting Started

In our optional information sessions, you can get to know our team and our institute.

During a detailed introductory interview, both the medical (based on previous exams) and the psychological condition of both partners will be discussed. Based on the initial findings, further explanation may be required that can be performed right in our institute (blood work, ultrasound, spermogram, etc.)

In most cases, the customized therapy plan can be outlined during the first interview. The way the institute is organized, some examinations during treatment can be performed outside of the institute (a slightly longer journey). All specialty procedures (IUI, IVF/ICSI, testicular puncture) are performed at our institute.

We strive to incorporate your wishes and ideas into the planning and to implement the procedures without adding stress to your daily life.

Contributing Factors

Most people take fertility for granted and are more worried about an unplanned pregnancy than of not being able to have children.

When a planned pregnancy does not happen, it is usually the woman who first senses an increasing pressure to perform, a sense of failure, an almost insult to her self-esteem. Coping with these pressures can be difficult if she feels unable to discuss her problem with others. Out of shame or guilt, she may believe she has to keep the problem a secret and might even try to ignore it or deny it. The curiosity of friends and relatives regarding parenthood can place even more pressure on her and her partner.

Thoughts can become concerned primarily with the issue of reproduction and can reduce sexual intercourse to a planned occurrence only during ovulation. By reducing sexuality to this level, it loses its spontaneity, and the playful, lustful and affectionate feelings give way to a scheduled performance of duties. This becomes an additional burden for the relationship in the long run, and the couple can come to the point where they believe they cannot manage without help any longer. If the time has come for medical help, the woman will usually see a doctor first. The physician will inform her that her partner may have limited fertility as well, which sooner or later leads to his medical examination. Already this step of investigation and a first treatment could have a positive effect on the couple, because they are no longer alone and help is within reach.

If results of examinations or previous treatment show that there is no or almost no chance of having a child naturally, artificial fertilization methods may be considered. This step takes courage since many people associate artificial reproduction with unfamiliar and sometimes frightening procedures, such as 'test tube babies', 'gene manipulation', etc., or consider the treatment too cumbersome or too expensive and see little chance of success.

Therefore, it is not surprising that many couples who decide to use artificial reproductive technologies are scared at first. To calm these fears, it is essential to build a climate of confidence between the doctors and the patients and to provide sufficient information about the treatment. An additional necessity for successful treatment is a treatment plan, which can be understood by both the medical staff and the patients.

Expenses

IVF Funds

On January 1st, 2000, the Ministry of Social Security and Generations established the so-called IVF Funds for Austrian residents. Under certain conditions, this government support covers 70% of the cost for four IVF or ICSI procedures. The couple is responsible for 30% of the costs for the procedures and medications.

Costs

Medication deductibles:

Because every patient reacts differently to treatment, medical costs vary depending on the duration of treatment, hormone levels and bodily response; the average cost is 300–600 Euros.

Procedure deductibles:

IVF Procedure - 467.60 Euros

ICSI Procedure - 551.50 Euros

Frozen embryo transfer - 179.90 Euros

Cancellation of a cycle before puncture (e.g. due to low response to stimulation) - 70.20 Euros

Cancellation of a cycle after puncture (e.g. due to unsuccessful fertilization) - 327.30 Euros

Cancellation of a cycle after puncture and ICSI - 386.00 Euros

Testicular puncture - 179.90 Euros

Requirements

To qualify for the Austrian Social Security – IVF Funds coverage, the following requirements have to be met:

MEDICALLY APPROVED INDICATIONS

- Tubal sterility: mutually closed, removed, or non-functioning fallopian tubes
- PCOS
- Endometriosis

These diagnoses have to be verified by recognized diagnostic procedures and documentation; a specialist has to document the diagnosis using visualization methods (ultrasound, X-ray images) or records of operative intervention.

- male limited fertility (verified by two spermograms, at least one month apart and not older than two years)

OTHER CONDITIONS

- At the onset of a procedure, a woman must not exceed 40 years and her partner 50 years of age.
- Both partners have to have health insurance in Austria (certificate of insurance and a copy of the "e-card"; if they have private insurance, a certificate of insurance is required).
- Individuals who do not have Austrian citizenship are required to have health insurance in Austria for at least three months and a certificate of insurance.
- Cost coverage is for both married couples and non-married couples living together.

Every fertilization attempt has to be registered and documented through our internet database with the health insurance agency. Age requirements and all other criteria must be met with every attempt.

Costs of a private attempt not covered by the IVF Funds, depending on the method and medication, range from 1,500–5,000 Euros. Exact costs are determined by the individual therapy plan.

Legal conditions

As of July 1, 1992, the Reproductive Medicine Laws (Fortpflanzungsmedizin-Gesetz (FMedG)) have taken effect, regulating the application of various fertilization procedures.

As a result, our institute, which has received special authorization, is in the position to carry out IVF treatment for married and unmarried couples. Couples who are not married are required to obtain detailed information regarding the legal consequences of the agreement from the court or notary before beginning treatment.

Fertilization with donor sperm can also be performed at our institute. Under all circumstances, this procedure requires a court-issued or notarized legal document signed by both partners.

Donated sperm or eggs not allowed to be used in IVF on legal grounds, which represents a major impairment for female patients. There are special cases where infertility is the result both of low sperm count and obstructed fallopian tubes, or missing ovaries from birth, or ovaries which have been removed or no longer function because of operations, radiation treatment, etc.