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Outcome of in vitro Fertilization in Women ≥40 Years of Age

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Objectives: To evaluate the results of IVF in women ≥40 years of age using their own oocytes.

Methods: A retrospective study was conducted of all IVF-ET cycles among women over the age 40 years at Seoul Women's Hospital (Incheon, Korea) from January 2000 to December 2006. Two hundred seventy one consecutive IVF cycle in one hundred seventy patients were evaluated and fifty four cycles were cancelled (cancellation rate 16%).

Results: Two hundred seventeen cycles (84%) underwent an embryo transfer. An overall clinical pregnancy rate of 11% (30/271) per retrieval was found. Clinical miscarriages (after the pregnancy of a fetal heart) were found in 33% (10/30). The overall delivery rate was 7.4% (20/271) per retrieval was found. Comparison between two groups (women ≥44 years old and women <44 years old) showed that women ≥44 years old group had higher cancellation rate (26.2% vs 13.9%), lower number of retrieved oocytes (4.13 ± 4.07 vs 6.17 ± 4.62), 2PN (3.46 ± 3.12 vs 4.83 ± 3.61), embryos for transfer (2.81 ± 1.83 vs 3.52 ± 1.72). Also, lower clinical pregnancy rate (2.1% vs 13.0%) and live birth rate (0.0% vs 9.0%) was found in ≥44 years old group. All data between two groups was statistically difference ($p < 0.05$). Missed abortion rate from clinical pregnancy was 31.0% in <44 years old group and 100% in ≥44 years old group but it was no difference as statistical.

Conclusion: The current study showed that in vitro fertilization is a reasonable treatment for <44 years of age using their own oocytes. We strongly recommend the ovum donation for more successful IVF cycles in patients aged ≥44 years.