



Endometrial Scratch

Patient Information

What is Endometrial Scratch?

Research has suggested that pregnancy rates are improved when an endometrial scratch is performed in the cycle before stimulation for an IVF/ICSI cycle for patients that have had recurrent implantation failure. The endometrial lining of the womb is scratched using a small plastic tube (Pipelle) passed through the cervix.

How does Endometrial scratch work?

Research suggests that the immune response following endometrial scratch increases growth factors at the site making the endometrium more receptive to embryo implantation.

Who should have Endometrial Scratch?

Endometrial scratch is offered to patients who have had two fresh IVF or ICSI cycles where they have had a negative pregnancy test despite good quality embryos.

How is Endometrial Scratch performed?

Endometrial Scratch is a simple procedure similar to a cervical smear test. A speculum is gently inserted into the vagina to allow the clinician to see the cervix. The cervix is cleaned before inserting the plastic Pipelle tube through the cervix. The endometrial lining is scratched by moving the catheter up and down, this can cause period type pain. As no anaesthesia is required you will be able to go straight home after the procedure.

When is Endometrial Scratch performed?

Endometrial Scratch is performed in an outpatient clinic at BCRM between day 18 and 25 of the cycle in which you are starting medication. Please inform the nurses that you require an Endometrial Scratch when you telephone with your period date for treatment and an appointment will be made.



Preparing for your Endometrial Scratch Procedure

Information for heterosexual couples, we recommend not to have unprotected sexual intercourse before the procedure. Please take a home pregnancy test before attending for your appointment as we will not need to perform the procedure if it is positive.

Information for all patients before the procedure. You may wish to bring a sanitary towel with you for after the procedure as it is common to experience some light spotting afterwards.

It is common to experience some discomfort during the procedure, you can take paracetamol and ibuprofen 1-2 hours before the procedure to help prevent pain.

We would recommend that your partner/friend or family member attends with you to support you after the procedure.

Are there any risks associated with endometrial scratch?

Research has not provided sufficient evidence that endometrial scratch has an effect on complications such as miscarriage, multiple pregnancy, pain or bleeding.

<https://www.hfea.gov.uk/treatments/treatment-add-ons/endometrial-scratching/>

Endometrial scratching | HFEA

For most patients, having a routine cycle of proven fertility treatment is effective without using any treatment add-ons.

www.hfea.gov.uk



Address

BCRM - Bristol Centre for Reproductive Medicine
135 Aztec West
Almondsbury
Bristol
BS32 4UB



Telephone

0117 259 1159



Email

Contact@BCRM.clinic

