



NK Testing

Patient Information

Natural killer cell testing and IVF failure or miscarriage:

Our immune system is unique and the varied way it act or responds in different people is not fully understood. Endometrial Natural Killer Cells (NK Cells) are immune type cells found in the womb lining (endometrium). Current research is looking into the link between the success or failure of embryo implantation, following fertility treatment such as IVF, as well as miscarriage.

It is important to stress at this stage that whilst research evidence points to a link between reproductive failure and increased NK cells, there is yet more research to do to prove a definite link as well as what treatment would be of benefit if confirmed.

How is NK cell testing of the womb lining done:

This is similar to the endometrial procedure. 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. A sample of the lining is sent for testing.

As no anaesthesia is required you will be able to go straight home after the procedure.

Who should consider being tested:

NK testing should be considered in the following cases:

- 2 or more failed IVF treatments
- 2 or more unexplained miscarriages

How do I book the test:

It would be helpful to have consultation prior to booking the test to understand the implications and you'll be given specific instructions on when to have the test in your menstrual cycle which will depend on your clinical case.

When do I get the results:

Results will be available 2-3 weeks after the test. If negative no further action will need to be taken. If positive, a consultation will be arranged to discuss potential treatment depending on your levels.



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