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World Congress on
BREAST CANCER, GYNECOLOGY AND WOMEN HEALTH
&
Annual Conference on
ORTHOPEDICS AND RHEUMATOLOGY

September 06-07, 2018 | Bangkok, Thailand

Arch Gen Intern Med 2018, Volume 2 | DOI: 10.4066/2591-7951-C3-009

OOCYTE RETRIEVAL-ET SIMULATOR, A STEP TOWARDS COMPETENCE AND PROFICIENCY IN ICSI PROCEDURES

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Oocyte retrieval (OR) and embryo transfer (ET) are mainly operator-dependent and requires training to be performed successfully. Acquisition of oocytes is the first step towards successful outcomes in an ART program and is easily mastered. However, the number of procedures required for a trainee to learn the procedure and reach proficiency is not well defined. To our knowledge little data exist about minimum number of retrievals physicians should perform under direct supervision prior to independent practice. ET is a critical step in the overall success of (ICSI). A successful ET should deliver the embryos a traumatically to the point in the endometrial lining where implantation is most likely to occur. Despite its apparent simplicity, it is an integral part of ICSI cycle that can be difficult to teach and perform well. Standard practice is currently to perform a recommended number of procedures under supervision till the trainee acquires proficiency, few ICSI procedures training protocols have been reported in scientific literature. Moreover, commonly used training schemes are not tailored to the trainee and do not allow for individualized assessment of proficiency. Moreover, the difficulties encountered by clinics and hospitals to teach ICSI procedures and to operate on real patients, opens ethical issues of great relevance both from the legal and practical point of view. As a training tool, simulation engages learners and allows for deliberate practice and allows trainees to experience learning in an immersive environment. Simulation allows educators to control the environment and ensure desired learning objectives are met while permitting increased trainee autonomy and provides a safe environment to practice and make mistakes without jeopardizing patient care. Oocyte retrieval-ET simulator might be a crucial step towards the creation of true training schools in all ART procedures.