



## **INFERTILITY SPECIALISTS BEGIN CRUCIAL ON-SITE TESTING FOR EMBRYOS WITH CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES**

*South Florida Institute for Reproductive Medicine –  
First in Region to Begin On Site Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis*

*First Patient Treated to Give Birth Soon*

**MIAMI** – South Florida Institute for Reproductive Medicine is the first and only community-based Reproductive Medicine Program in the area to offer on-site Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD).

With this technique, physicians at the South Florida-based Institute ([www.ivfmd.com](http://www.ivfmd.com)) can improve the outcome of those patients who have suffered recurrent in-vitro fertilization failure and pregnancy losses, or wish to reduce the chance of receiving a chromosomally abnormal embryo. Also, PGD will increase the likelihood of having a genetically healthy selection of embryos available for transfer.

“We are proud to be the first in our region to offer the latest advances in reproductive technologies, all in the same facility,” said Juergen Eisermann, MD, the Institute’s clinical director. “This latest technique helps us detect diseases such as Down’s syndrome, cystic fibrosis, and sex-linked disorders, such as hemophilia, before an embryo is implanted in the womb.”

The Institute successfully performed the procedure for a couple, who are expecting the birth of their first baby in February or March.

Utilizing the PGD technique can improve embryo quality resulting in:

- Increased potential for pregnancy per embryo transferred
- Less risk for miscarriage
- Reduced need to transfer more than one or two embryos
- Reduced risk of an unfavorable amniocentesis

(MORE)



Although the technique does not replace the need for amniocentesis, it will allow a 90 percent accuracy for detecting numerical abnormalities. Next day results are available after a specialized procedure is performed during in-vitro culture.

In conjunction with PGD, this program also will afford patients an opportunity to have a balanced family. This technique allows the identification of the sex of the embryos. Those couples who already have children, and meet strict criteria, could qualify for participation in the Institute's Family Balancing Program.

Internationally known as leading experts in infertility (about 30 percent of all clients come from South America), the Institute boasts a staff of physicians who are acknowledged as pioneers in their fields.

Dr. Eisermann founded the Institute in 1989 and now is its clinical director. Dr. Eisermann is known for his techniques of minimally invasive surgeries to save a woman's reproductive organs.

Dr. Maria Bustillo is the laboratory director of the Assisted Reproductive Technology Program at the SFIRM. Twenty-years ago Dr. Bustillo and her team at Harbor UCLA Medical Center were involved in this country's first clinical pregnancy and delivery with the assistance from an egg donor.

Dr. Kimberly Thompson introduced the egg donation program to the institute in 1994. Since then more than 300 women that have lost their own ovarian function have delivered babies using this technique. The program's coordinator Dr. Alexis Karstaedt comes to the Institute from Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. She has been able to recruit a wide variety of donors who offer patients a chance of reaching their dreams of starting or adding to a family.

Dr. Ellen Wood has spearheaded the expansion of our Assisted Reproductive Technology Program services to the Broward community in Pembroke Pines, where we are now offering full services 7 days a week.

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