A Chance for Life

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For the 6.1 million people across the United States who suffer from infertility, the struggle to have children is often long and frustrating.

Numerous treatments exist, ranging from medication to surgical options. For couples who have tried and tried, there is always in vitro fertilization (IVF). IVF is treatment that removes eggs from the woman’s ovaries and combines them with sperm outside the body. After the fertilized eggs divide, they are placed into the womb.

Below are a number of frequently asked questions about the treatment, which can result in a chance for life:

Q. What is the success rate of in vitro fertilization?
A. According to the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, the average live delivery rate for IVF in 2001 was 27 percent per retrieval. In comparison, a reproductively healthy couple has a 20 percent chance in any given month of achieving a pregnancy and carrying it to term. Since IVF was first successfully used in the United States, more than 91,000 babies have been born as a result of this technique.

Q. What are the benefits of in vitro fertilization?
A. Without in vitro fertilization, many couples would have no hope of having a biological child. The treatment is repeatable if initially unsuccessful.

Q. Is it expensive?
A. Infertility treatments can be expensive and usually are not covered by insurance in Georgia. According to the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, the average cost of an IVF cycle in the United States is about $12,400, due to the need for highly trained professionals with sophisticated laboratories and equipment for this type of medical procedure.

Q. Who can try IVF?
A. Any kind of infertility can be treated with IVF, including male infertility. Even in older patients, there are IVF options that can be discussed with your doctor.

Q. How long does the process take?
A. Once fertility drugs are started, it takes about 12 days for the eggs to be ready for retrieval. Pregnancy can be confirmed by blood test 11 days after implantation.
Q. How can I get started?
A. Start by finding a fertility doctor who has been trained to do the IVF procedure. Make sure you feel comfortable with your doctor and his or her office staff and about your chances for success.

For appointments, referrals or more information, please contact MCG Reproductive Medicine and Infertility Associates at (706) 722-4434.