



# news

"AD ASTRA PER ASPERA" "TO THE STARS THROUGH DIFFICULTIES" | VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 | SEPT 2006

FERTILITY NEWS

## IMPROVING PREGNANCY RATES IN IVF USING LASER ASSISTED HATCHING

We are pleased to announce the introduction of Laser Assisted Hatching (LAH) service to Astra's array of advanced state of the art assisted reproductive technology services.

Assisted hatching is a technique where the Zona Pellucida or the shell around the egg and subsequently around the developing Embryo is opened or at least made much thinner before transferring the embryo back to the uterus to implant. That would aid the natural process of hatching which is necessary before a Blastocyst (day 5 embryo) can implant.

There is new evidence that Laser Assisted Hatching improves implantation rates and subsequently pregnancy rates in the good prognosis patients (younger than 36 years old). There is also some evidence that LAH may also improve implantation rates of frozen embryos that are allowed to cleave(grow) in vitro after thawing.

Assisted hatching is not new at Astra. In the past we have used mechanical and chemical means to perform assisted hatching. We are shifting to laser because of simplicity, safety and expertise of our team.

For more information on the subject, you can refer to **[www.pubmed.gov](http://www.pubmed.gov)**

key words: LAH, implantation, Pregnancy





## ABOUT THE DOCTOR

**Dr. Essam Michael is the Clinical Director of Astra Fertility Group. He is certified by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada as well as the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.** After completing his residency at Queen's University in 1994, Dr. Michael joined ISIS Regional Fertility Centre in Mississauga in 1999 as a founding partner and staff consultant. Dr. Michael has also been an active staff member in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at William Osler Health Centre, Etobicoke Campus, for the past 12 years. Dr. Michael manages and treats a wide range of medical and surgical fertility problems. He is highly skilled in endoscopic procedures and is experienced in a full range of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) treatments. His area of interest is focused on uterine and pelvic factors related to infertility, such as tubal disease and endometriosis. He is actively involved in clinical research and has several publications in the field of reproductive medicine.

Astra Fertility's mission is to offer effective, compassionate, and affordable state-of-the-art fertility treatments and make them easily accessible to all patients in various communities. They pride themselves on patient satisfaction. Instead of randomly trying different fertility recipes available in all clinics, they strive to first reach an accurate diagnosis for the fertility problem before administering the most effective treatment option. This significantly cuts down on the emotional and financial strain that many endure before reaching their goal. Without an accurate diagnosis, treatment remains experimental.

Astra Fertility also offers a wide range of skilled surgical treatments. If indicated, surgical options can help you achieve your goal in a shorter period of time and likely without the need to use fertility drugs or expensive Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) procedures. Rest assured that quality care is standardized in all Astra Fertility clinics regardless of location.

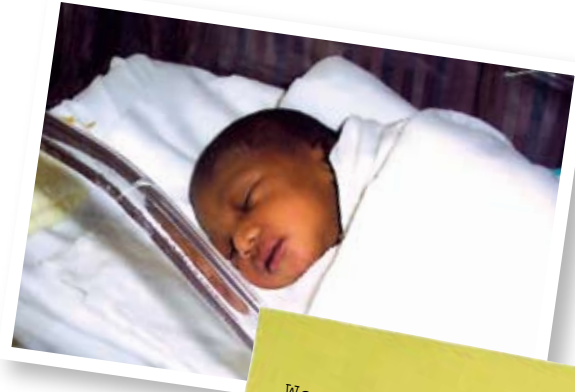
## MEET THE TEAM

**Astra Fertility team welcomes the arrival of Dr. Saeed Rahbar, our new Lab Director, who joined us in August 2006 arriving from the UK. Dr Saeed Rahbar has more than 14 years experience in the field of clinical embryology.** He has established few IVF Labs in different parts of the world and also has trained many outstanding embryologists. He has PhD degree in Embryology and Histology and has pioneered the use of Laser in clinical embryology.

Dr. Rahbar has supervised IVF laboratories in UK, Qatar and Iran. He has published and presented more than 30 papers and titles in scientific journals and conferences. He is also a winner of several research awards. His research is focused on the ultra structure of zona pellucida and details of embryo hatching. He has superior technical experience in all aspect of clinical embryology such as IVF/ICSI, laser assisted hatching, spermatid injection, blastomere biopsy and vitrification.



## TESTIMONIALS



We want to thank you for your patience, remember I had tons of questions; for calming all our fears and making us realize our dreams, we thank you. For being so selfless and dedicated without caring so much about the financial gains we want to say thank you.

Sandra, Kwasi, & Jayden



We had all kinds of struggle for 11 years to have a baby and when we were ready to give up after almost loosing all hope, there was a light at the end of the tunnel. That light was you. You helped us to regain our confidence and find our way back and persevere. You are the greatest doctor in the world.

Mahendra and Bhawna Pithadiya



We cannot thank you enough for helping to make our dream of becoming parents come true. Our journey to becoming parents was a long and emotional one, and we could not have asked for a better result - a new beginning.

Michael Mary Stefania Michela

## NEWS

### **“SUCCESSFUL PREGNANCY AND DELIVERY FOLLOWING INTRACYTOPLASMIC INJECTION OF FROZEN-THAWED NON-VIABLE TESTICULAR SPERM AND OOCYTE ACTIVATION WITH CALCIUM IONOPHORE”**

This is the title of a paper that was produced by our Astra team and has been published in the JOURNAL OF ANDROLOGY AUGUST 9, 2006.

Absence of sperms in the semen or Azoospermia is a challenging fertility problem that can be solved by retrieving sperms directly from the testicles or epididymis. These sperms can be used to fertilize collected eggs from the female partner through IVF/ ICSI (intra cytoplasmic sperm injection). ICSI is a microinjection technique where an individual live sperm at a time, is injected directly into the cytoplasm of individual mature eggs. Retrieving testicular sperm can be a very difficult procedure especially in cases of testicular failure (non obstructive azoospermia). Retrieved unused sperms can be frozen for future use. The problem is the fact that the majority of these sperms may not survive the thaw in preparation for ICSI. To our knowledge, it has not been reported that a viable human pregnancy can result from injecting a nonviable (dead) sperm into an egg. Astra team is the first to report the use of a revolutionary method that led to successful pregnancy and delivery of a healthy baby after using non-viable (dead) sperm in IVF/ICSI treatment.

For more information on the subject, you can refer to

**[www.pubmed.gov](http://www.pubmed.gov)**

key words: oocyte activation, calcium ionophore

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND FERTILITY TREATMENTS**

At Astra, we are committed to make all fertility treatments affordable including IVF. Thanks to partnering with Creditmedical, payments can be made in comfortable installments in order to reduce your financial strain.

Patients have to understand that success rate of an IVF treatment is not guaranteed. For that reason, we are offering an attractive package of three cycles for \$10,000.00

Significantly reduced IVF fees are frequently offered to our qualified clients.

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**ASTRA FERTILITY CLINIC**

