Cryopreservation of embryos

Medisch Centrum Kinderwens

Embryo freezing

Two days after your oocyte pick-up, you received a call from the laboratory, in which the technician explained the oocyte fertilization and the number of developing embryos from your treatment.

During an IVF/ICSI treatment, often more embryos develop than we can transfer. The 'residual' embryos are cultured in the laboratory up until day 6. During this time the embryos are monitored for quality, and on day 5/6 assessed if the embryos are suitable for freezing.
On average, 60-70% of the embryos are suitable for freezing.

At the time of cryopreservation (day 5/6), an embryo should have reached the blastocyst stage (see picture). If the development of an embryo is delayed, it may not reach a blastocyst stage, and will therefore *not* be cryopreserved. Years of experience have learned us that these delayed embryos do not result in pregnancies.
Embryos that reach a blastocyst stage have a good chance to withstand the freezing and thawing procedure, and give a valid chance on pregnancy.

In the accompanying email from the laboratory, we inform you on the number of embryos that have reached the blastocyst stage and that we were able to cryopreserve.

This information is intended for women that have undergone an IVF/ICSI treatment at MC Kinderwens. The information, together with the information explained by the doctor, is intended to inform you on the cryopreservation process.
If you have any comments/suggestions regarding this information please email: info@mckinderwens.nl.