

# IUI vs IVF: What's the Difference?

A simple, side-by-side guide to help you understand both treatments.



Learn how IUI and IVF work, what sets them apart, and which one might be right for you.

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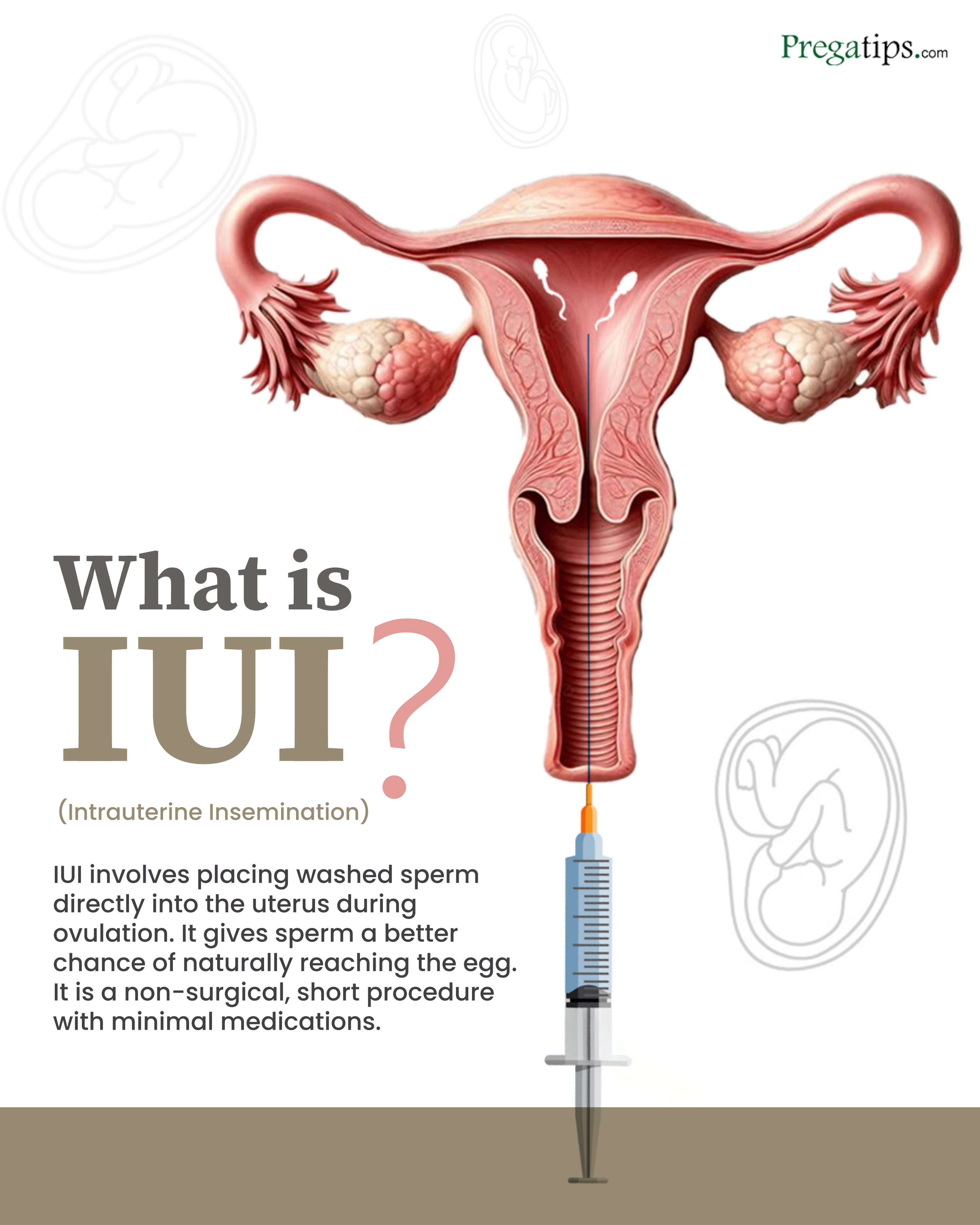
Written by **Akriti Aggarwal**

# Understanding Fertility Treatments

Fertility treatments come in many forms. IUI and IVF are two of the most common – both help sperm meet the egg, but in different ways. Here's a simple breakdown.



Disclaimer: This guide is for informational purposes only. Always consult your fertility specialist for personalised advice.



# What is IUI?

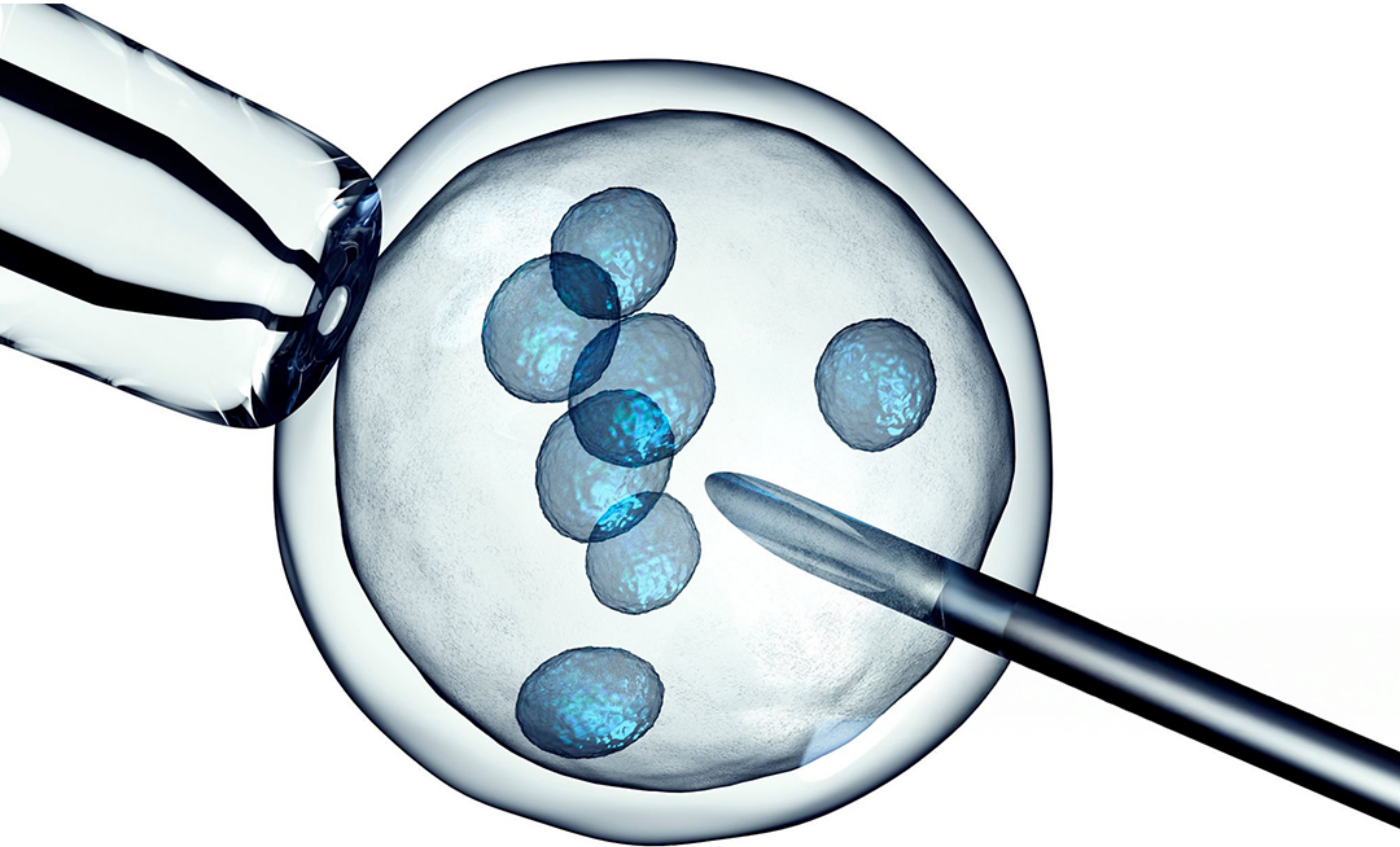
(Intrauterine Insemination)

IUI involves placing washed sperm directly into the uterus during ovulation. It gives sperm a better chance of naturally reaching the egg. It is a non-surgical, short procedure with minimal medications.

# What is **IVF**?

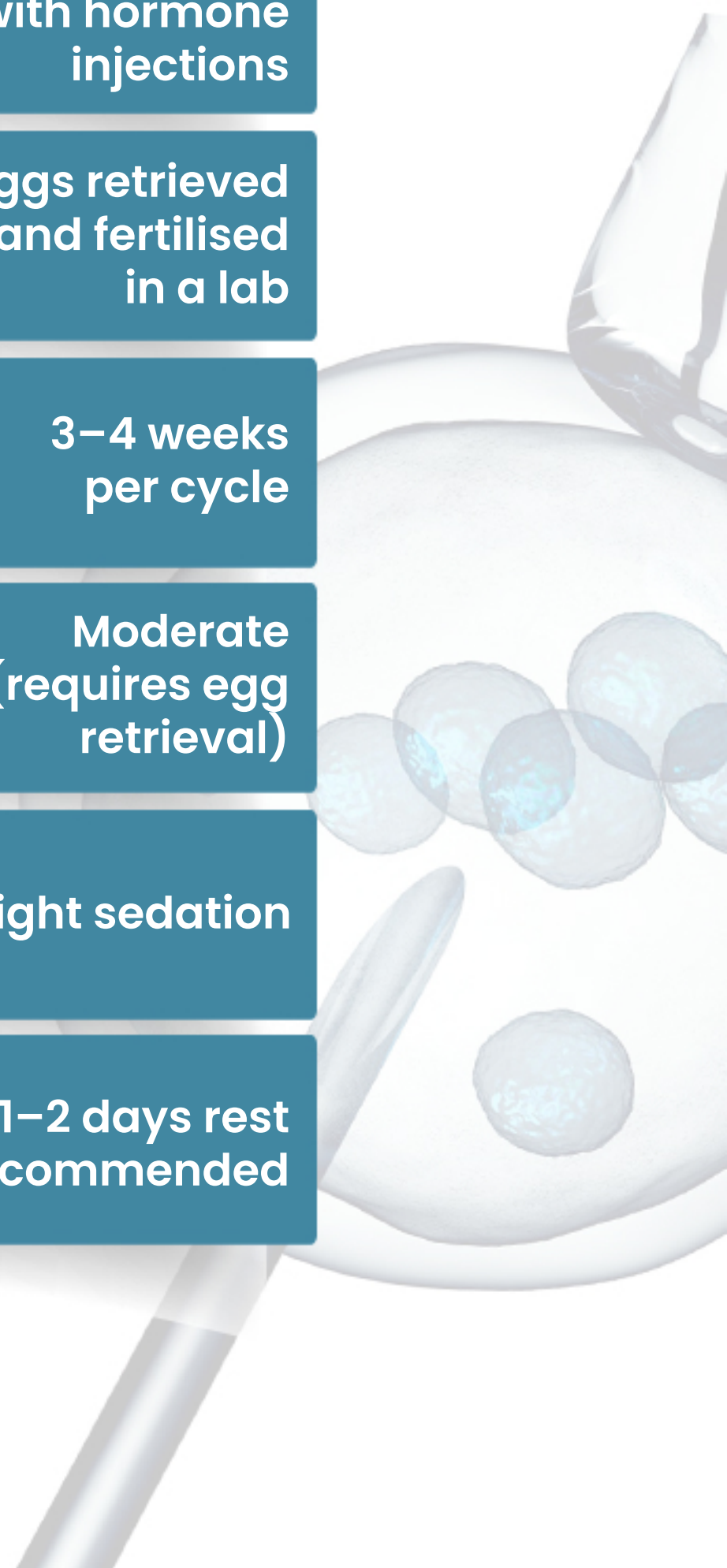
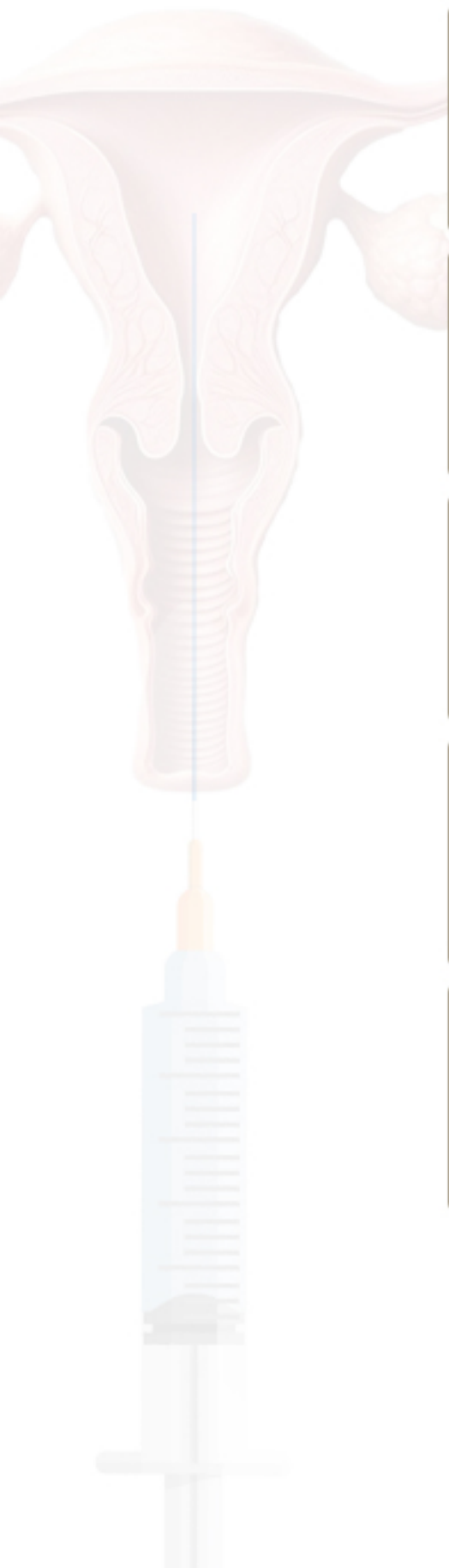
(In Vitro Fertilisation)

In IVF, eggs are collected from the ovaries and fertilised with sperm in a lab. A healthy embryo is then placed into the uterus. It is a more advanced procedure that involves hormonal stimulation and lab fertilisation.



# The Process: Step-by-Step Comparison

IUI	STEP	IVF
Ovulation tracking, mild stimulation	Preparation	Ovarian stimulation with hormone injections
Sperm are placed directly into the uterus	Procedure	Eggs retrieved and fertilised in a lab
Short (1–2 weeks)	Duration	3–4 weeks per cycle
Minimal	Invasiveness	Moderate (requires egg retrieval)
Not required	Anaesthesia	Light sedation
Same day	Recovery	1–2 days rest recommended



# Success Rates

IUI	STEP	IVF
10–20% per cycle	Under 35 Years	40–50% per cycle
5–10%	Over 35 Years	25–35%
Limited benefit	Male Factor Issues	Highly effective
Not suitable	Tube Blockages	Suggested

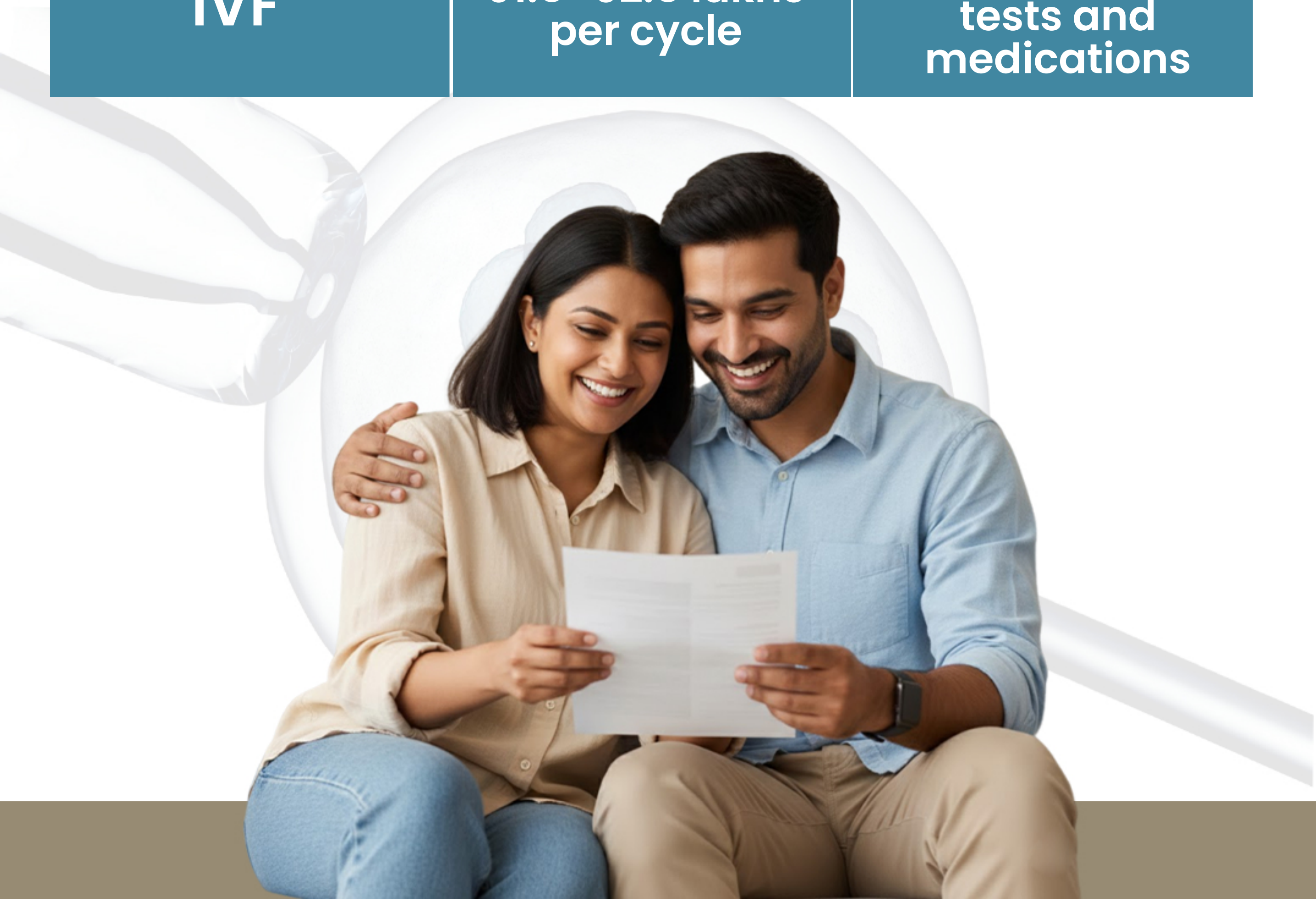


Success rates vary by clinic and individual health.


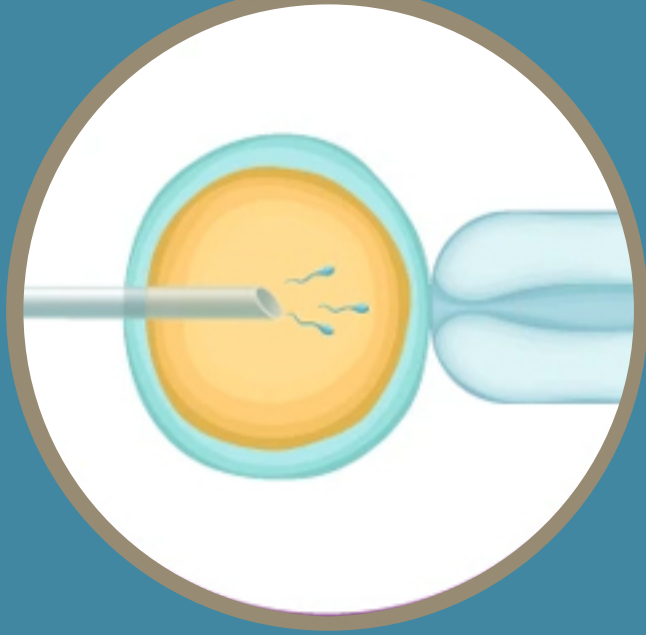
# Costs

## (Approximate Range)

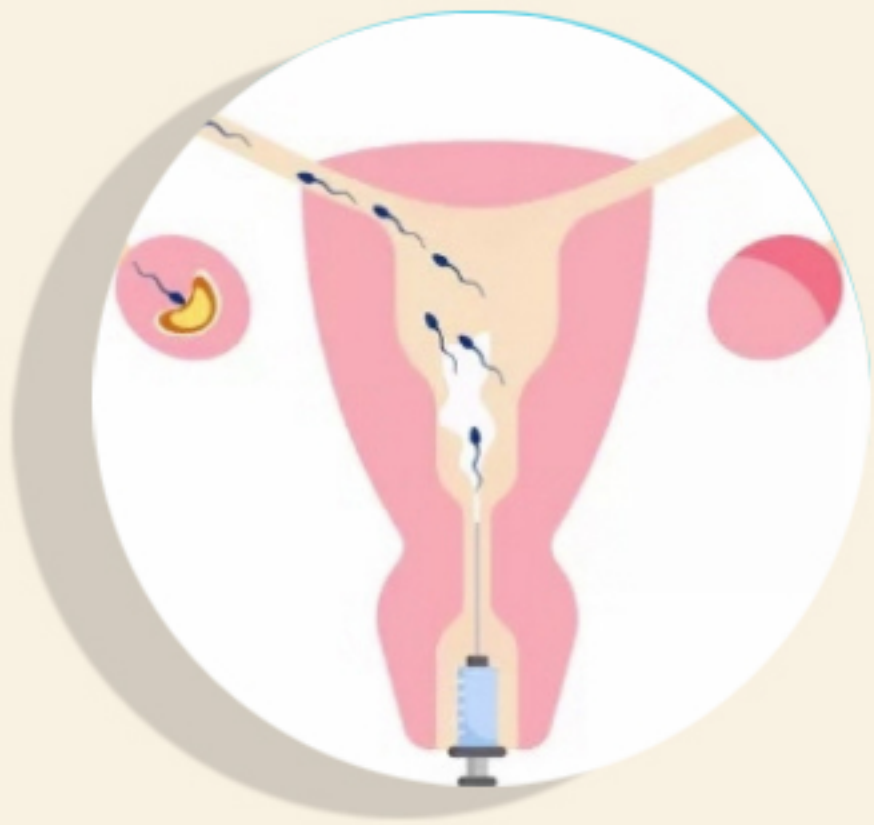
Treatment	Average Cost (INR)	Notes
IUI	₹10,000–₹25,000 per cycle	Usually done for 3–6 cycles
IVF	₹1.5–₹2.5 lakhs per cycle	May vary with tests and medications



# Pros & Cons

<p><b>IUI</b></p> 	<p><b>Aspect</b></p> <hr/>	<p><b>IVF</b></p> 
<p>Lower</p>	<p><b>Cost</b></p>	<p>Higher</p>
<p>Quicker</p>	<p><b>Time</b></p>	<p>Longer Cycle</p>
<p>Minimal</p>	<p><b>Invasiveness</b></p>	<p>Moderate</p>
<p>Lower</p>	<p><b>Success</b></p>	<p>Higher</p>
<p>Natural Fertilisation</p>	<p><b>Control Over Process</b></p>	<p>Controlled Environment</p>
<p>Early-Stage Infertility</p>	<p><b>Suitable for</b></p>	<p>Complex Fertility Issues</p>

# When Each is Recommended

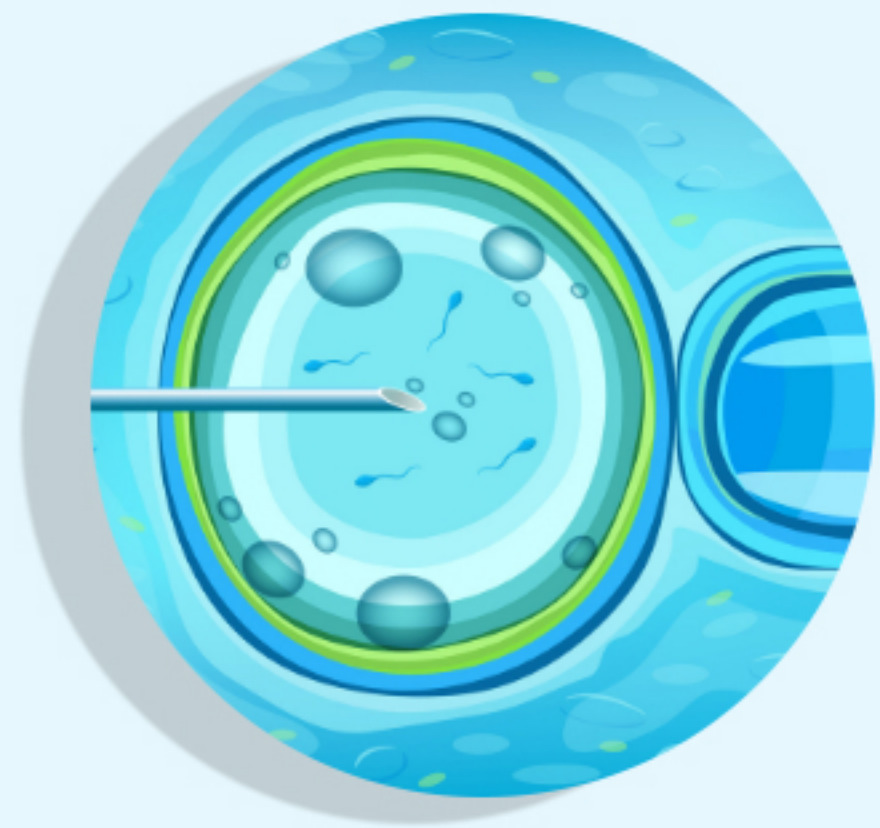


## IUI works best when:

- Ovulation is regular
- Mild male factor infertility
- Unexplained infertility
- Couples trying for < 2–3 years

## IVF is preferred when:

- Tubal blockage or severe male factor infertility
- Older maternal age (>35)
- Multiple failed IUI cycles
- Genetic screening is needed



Doctors often start with IUI for simpler cases, moving to IVF if results aren't achieved in a few cycles. Always remember, each journey is unique, and the success depends on your health, age, and response to treatment. It's not about which treatment is better; it's about which one is right for you.

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