



## Reproductive technologies Glossary

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### **Topic**

*Reproductive technologies*

**Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART):** “ART includes all fertility treatments in which both eggs and sperm are handled. In general, ART procedures involve surgically removing eggs from a woman’s ovaries, combining them with sperm in the laboratory, and returning them to the woman’s body or donating them to another woman. They do NOT include treatments in which only sperm are handled (i.e. intrauterine—or artificial—insemination) or procedures in which a woman takes medicine only to stimulate egg production without the intention of having eggs retrieved.”<sup>1</sup>

**Gamete Donation:** Egg or sperm donation for fertilization.

**Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI):** ICSI involves the injection, by a microneedle, of a single sperm directly into the cytoplasm of a mature egg (oocyte), which has been surgically removed from an ovary, to create an embryo. “This process increases the likelihood of fertilization when there are abnormalities in the number, quality, or function of the sperm.”<sup>2</sup>

**In Vitro Fertilization (IVF):** IVF is a method of assisted reproduction in which an egg(s) is collected from a woman’s ovary and united with sperm collected from her partner under laboratory conditions. The resulting pre-embryo is then transferred to the woman’s uterus for continued growth.

**References**

1. Department of Health and Human Services. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. *Assisted reproductive technology: home*, [online]. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ART/>. Accessed on November 27, 2007.
2. American Society for Reproductive Medicine. *Patient's fact sheet. Intracytoplasmic sperm injection*, [online]. Available at: <http://www.asrm.org/Patients/FactSheets/ICSI-Fact.pdf>. Accessed on November 27, 2007.