

Sperm washing and intratuerine insemination, or IUI, is a procedure where sperm is processed in our andrology lab so that it can be safely introduced into the uterus with a special catheter called an insemination catheter. With intercourse, the majority of sperm in the ejaculate leak out of the vagina and only a few sperm are able to swim through the cervical canal into the uterus. Theoretical reasons why IUI is effective include the availability of more sperm in the uterus, the fact that sperm placed in the uterus have a shorter distance to travel to reach the egg in the fallopian tube, and bypassing the cervix which serves as a barrier to sperm. IUI is typically used in conjunction with fertility pills such as letrozole (femara) or clomiphene citrate (clomid) to treat couples with unexplained infertility or with mild sperm deficits. IUI is also used with donor sperm.