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THE ABILITY OF WARMED BLASTOCYSTS TO RE-EXPAND AND THE PRE-VITRIFICATION TROPHOECTODERM GRADE SIGNIFICANTLY CORRELATED WITH IMPLANTATION.

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OBJECTIVE: Blastocyst re-expansion within a few hours of warming is considered a strong indicator of blastocyst potential. This study analyzed objectively and quantitatively the predictive value of blastocyst re-expansion on implantation. Additionally, the effect of trophoectodermgradewas also estimated.

DESIGN: Retrospective study.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: The study included 427 warmed blastocysts which were evaluated using time lapse imaging (Embryoscope_, Vitrolife). Embryos were vitrified and warmed with Cryotop method (KitazatoBiopharma). Variables studied included previtrification trophoectoderm grade (A, B and C), initial area (iA; blastocyst area immediately after warming) and final area (fA; blastocyst area before transfer). Warmed blastocysts were divided into four groups according to blastocoele re-expansion, calculated from the above variables (fA-iA): group 1, < 3463.0 mm2; group 2, 3463.0-6867.5 mm2; group 3, 6867.5-11112.5 mm2 and group 4; < 11112.5 mm2. Ongoing implantation rate (OIR) was compared between groups. The odd ratio (OR) of the effect of all variables on implantation was expressed in terms of 95% confidence interval (CI) and significance.

RESULTS: Significant differences were observed in the OIR between groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 (31.8%, 34.6%, 44.9% and 48.6%, respectively, P < 0.05). Evaluation of implantation prediction in relation to the blastocyst reexpansion and trophoectoderm grade is presented in Table 1.

CONCLUSIONS: Blastocyst re-expansion and pre-vitrification trophoectoderm grade are strong predictors of implantation in vitrified-warmed cycles. Using time lapse imaging for the analysis of warmed blastocysts offers the possibility of establishing an objective value of re-expansion associated with implantation. Logistic regression analysis for OIR according to blastocyst re-expansion and trophoectoderm grade Category OR 95%CI P value Group 2 vs. 1 1.03 0.55-1.94 NS Group 3 vs. 1 1.72 0.94-3.15 NS Group 4 vs. 1 1.94 1.06-3.56 0.03 B vs. C 1.56 0.77-3.16 NS A vs. C 1.82 1.12-2.95 0.01