Midland Fertility Services

Fertility Investigation Package

‘Building futures,
transforming lives’

Are you trying to get pregnant?

Of every 100 healthy, young couples trying to conceive naturally:

- 20 will conceive within one month
- 70 will conceive within six months
- 85 will conceive within one year
- 90 will conceive within 18 months
- 95 will conceive within two years

One in six couples in the UK will need fertility treatment to help them conceive. Many couples who have been trying to conceive for some months would like to know quickly if there is a problem that could prevent them from achieving a pregnancy. Some couples may just like to be assured that, with regular sexual intercourse, it is only a matter of time before they conceive.

How can MFS assess a couple's fertility?

MFS offers a comprehensive range of tests for both men and women to assess their chances of conceiving naturally and to indicate whether assisted conception treatment may be required. The MFS fertility investigation package includes:

- measuring baseline hormone levels
- anti-Müllerian hormone (AMH) testing
- inhibin B testing
- pelvic ultrasound scan
- follicle tracking
- sperm analysis
- tubal patency testing (if indicated)
- counselling
- review of test results and discussion of options for the future

The MFS fertility investigation package investigates both partners for the most common causes of infertility. Over-the-counter fertility testing kits may provide some results, but will not be as comprehensive and do not include an ultrasound scan, an explanation of the results by a fertility specialist or offer any supportive counselling.

What is included?

Most of the tests on the woman require attendance at MFS on particular days of the menstrual cycle and may require four or five visits to MFS to complete the investigations.

- Initial visit (30 to 45 minutes)

The first time you attend MFS you will meet your fertility specialist who will ask questions about your medical history and whether you are currently trying to conceive or have ever had any fertility tests or investigations, have ever been pregnant or have ever had any children. They will also answer any questions you may have and will describe how and when the investigations for both partners will be carried out.

- Baseline hormone tests and baseline scan (30 minutes)

A blood sample is taken from the woman between days two to five of her menstrual cycle (where day one is the first day of bleeding of her period) to measure two hormone levels:

- follicle stimulating hormone (FSH)
- luteinising hormone (LH)

These are two of the hormones that control the process that produces an egg - that is, the recruitment of follicles and the growth, and subsequent release, of the egg from the follicle into the Fallopian tubes.
Knowing both the levels and ratio of a

woman's FSH and LH give an indication of how well this is working.

At the same visit, the fertility specialist will also carry out an ultrasound scan of your pelvis. The scanner has a vaginal probe which ensures that a clear image is obtained of the ovaries and the uterus (womb). Any abnormalities, such as fibroids, polyps or cysts, will be apparent on this scan.

The woman's blood sample will also be tested to measure anti-Müllerian hormone (AMH) and inhibin B, to get an indication of both a woman's spontaneous fertility potential and also her possible response to stimulation with hormones during fertility treatment. The woman must provide a blood sample on days four to six of her cycle for the inhibin B test, where day one is the first day of her period.

- Sperm analysis

The sperm sample can be given at any time after a man has abstained from sex for between two to five days. Usually the sample is produced in a private room at MFS but alternatively, the laboratory can provide a sterile container and the sample can be produced at home and brought back to the clinic within an hour of producing the sample. Laboratory staff will assess the number of the sperm, how well they swim (motility), the shape and structure (morphology) and how well they survive during 24 hours culture, following routine preparation.

- Tubal patency test (1 hour)

This test is performed mid-cycle and indicates if a woman's Fallopian tubes are open (patent) or blocked. A small amount of liquid which shows up under ultrasound guidance is introduced into the uterus using a fine catheter placed just inside the uterus. If the tubes are patent, the solution travels through the tubes and can be seen with ultrasound, spilling into the abdomen. Pain relieving drugs are not usually required and so you will be able to leave MFS shortly after the procedure.

If you have already had a hysterosalpingogram (HSG) or laparoscopy to check your Fallopian tubes, MFS will not need to carry out another tubal patency test.

- Test results and future options (30 minutes)

Once the investigations have been completed you can book an appointment to discuss the results of all the tests with an MFS fertility specialist. They will either reassure you that there is no indication that you will have trouble conceiving or, alternatively, discuss the implications of any unexpected findings and outline your options, including the possibility of fertility treatment.

List of Services

- In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF)
- Intra Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI)
- Surgical Sperm Recovery (PESA/TESA)
- Embryo Freezing
- Blastocyst Culture
- Intra Uterine Insemination (IUI)
- Sperm Storage
- Assisted Hatching
- Egg Freezing
- Egg Donation
- Egg Sharing
- Tubal Patency Testing
- Fertility Investigation Package
- Phospholipid Auto-antibody Screen
- Sperm Analysis
- Recurrent Pregnancy Loss and Implantation Failure
- Genetic Screening
- Ovarian Reserve Testing
- Vasectomy Reversal Back-Up

How to get to Midland Fertility Services

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Court Parade, Aldridge,
West Midlands WS9 8LT

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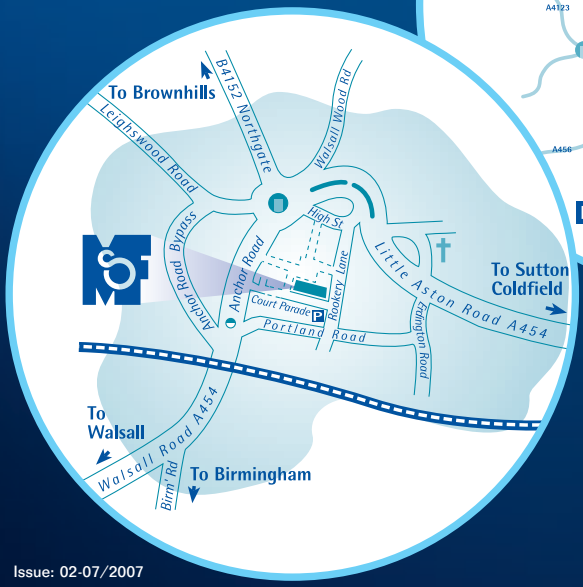
f: 01922 459020
e: mfs@midlandfertility.com
w: www.midlandfertility.com



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