

Does the Shift of the Window of Implantation Really Exist?





Mélanie Chow-Shi-Yée¹, Artak Tadevosyan^{1,2}, Eva Kadoch¹, François Bissonnette^{1,3}, Robert Hemmings^{1,3}, Louise Lapensée^{1,3}, Isaac-Jacques Kadoch^{1,3}

¹ Clinique ovo, Montreal, Canada. ²Department of Pharmacology and Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Montreal, QC, Canada. ³Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Montreal, QC, Canada

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INTRODUCTION

- Successful embryo implantation relies on maternofetal dialogue and a receptive endometrium.
- Abnormal receptivity leads to implantation failures in 2/3 of cases, necessitating personalized care for patients with infertility¹.
- Tests based on specific genes expression during the window of implantation (WOI) have been developed to predict endometrial receptivity, suggesting a personalized embryo transfer (pET) on the optimal receptivity day.
- The effectiveness of shifting the WOI on pregnancy rates remains unproven.
- We developed Adhesio, an innovative tool based on endometrial receptivity and embryo-endometrium crosstalk transcriptomic signatures to predict endometrial receptivity and successful implantation.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

- Evaluate Adhesio's ability to predict endometrial receptivity status and implantation success.
- Determine the accuracy of WOI shift strategy and effectiveness of pET.

STUDY DESIGN

- A total of 104 patients presenting for fertility treatments were randomized into two groups: study (n=50) and control (n=54).
- Two biopsies were taken at day PG+6 and PG+8 in substitute cycles and analyzed using Adhesio. The analysis predicted receptive, partially, or non-receptive endometrium, recommending the optimal transfer day.
- FETs of the study group were performed according to test recommendation. For the control group, the first FET was done according to the standard of care at PG+6. In the event of implantation failure, the second FET was performed according to Adhesio recommendation.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

- Qualitative variables were described using frequency and percentage distributions.
- The mean, standard deviation, median, and IQR values were used to describe the quantitative data.
- Statistical analyses were performed using R software (version 4.1.2).

RESULTS

Table 1. Baseline characteristics.

Variable	Overall (n = 104)	Adhesio group, (n = 50)	Control group, (n = 54)	
Age at randomization				
Mean (SD)	34.0 (4.1)	34.7 (4.3)	33.3 (3.8)	
Median (IQR)	33.0 (31.0, 36.0)	34.0 (31.2, 37.0)	33.0 (31.0, 35.0)	
Weight				
Mean (SD)	73 (19)	76 (21)	71 (17)	
Median (IQR)	68 (60, 80)	68 (61, 85)	68 (59, 77)	
Height				
Mean (SD)	166 (7)	167 (6)	165 (7)	
Median (IQR)	166 (162, 170)	167 (163, 170)	166 (160, 170)	
BMI				
Mean (SD)	26.5 (6.4)	27.1 (7.1)	25.9 (5.7)	
Median (IQR)	23.8 (22.0, 29.7)	23.7 (22.2, 32.5)	23.9 (22.0, 29.0)	

Table 2. Distribution of patients in the Adhesio group according to the transfer day recommended by the test.

FET day recommended	Adhesio group, n = 50
PG +5	2 (4.0%)
PG +6	18 (36%)
PG +7	1 (2.0%)
PG +8	15 (30%)
PG +9	10 (20%)
PG +10	4 (8.0%)

RESULTS (cont.)

Table 3. Transfer outcomes by FET day recommended (PG+6 vs other day) for all patients regardless of the group (84 FETs).

	PG+6		
Variable	No (n = 55)	Yes (n = 29)	
Transfer Outcome			
Not Pregnant, n (%)	44 (80)	12 (41)	
Pregnant, n (%)	11 (19.6)	17 (58.4)	

CONCLUSION

- Adhesio demonstrated good predictive capabilities for successful pregnancy when the endometrium is receptive at PG+6.
- However, pETs on days other than PG+6 did not improve pregnancy rates, even with optimal receptivity.
- Delaying the day of transfer decreased the success of embryo implantation calling into question the effectiveness of the pET strategy used by the endometrial receptivity tests based on transcriptomic signatures.
- The strategy of improving receptivity on the standard transfer day (PG+6) should be considered to provide patients with the best care management.

REFERENCE

Messaoudi S. and al. (2019). 15 years of transcriptomic analysis on endometrial receptivity: what have we learnt? Fertility Research and Practice, 5(1), 1-9.