

TIME-LAPSE IN REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE ETHICAL PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

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BACKGROUND

Rapid implementation of Time-lapse (TL) in reproductive medicine:

- Embryological basic research
- Possible clinical uses in IVF

However:

- Uncertainty on clinical effect
- Uncertainty on negative side-effects

Despite this:

- Quick uptake in marketing
- Strong statements on usefulness

CLINICAL PROSPECT & RISK

- Better embryo selection / deselection?
- Improved patient experience?
- TL capture offered as valued part of services?

Side-effect risks:

- No positive impact despite promise?
- Unforeseen negative impact ?
- Patients misled?
- Patient experience ruined?
- Unjustified increase of service cost?

SOME ETHICAL ISSUES & RAMIFICATIONS

TL capture may base patient complaints

Can TL capture be ethically withheld?

When is TL marketing acceptable?

How evaluate implications for patient experience?

How evaluate idea of TL capture as part of service?

How should responsibly clinical TL intro look like?

Can good clinical evaluation of TL be combined with current trends of marketing?

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

- Current trend in TL marketing may mislead patients
- Impact on patient experience of TL poses ethical challenges
- Many ethically central issues remain to investigate

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

Haste in TL clinical introduction is an ethical problem

Pros and cons of patient experience of TL need to be studied

Actual impact of TL on effectiveness of IVF still not clear