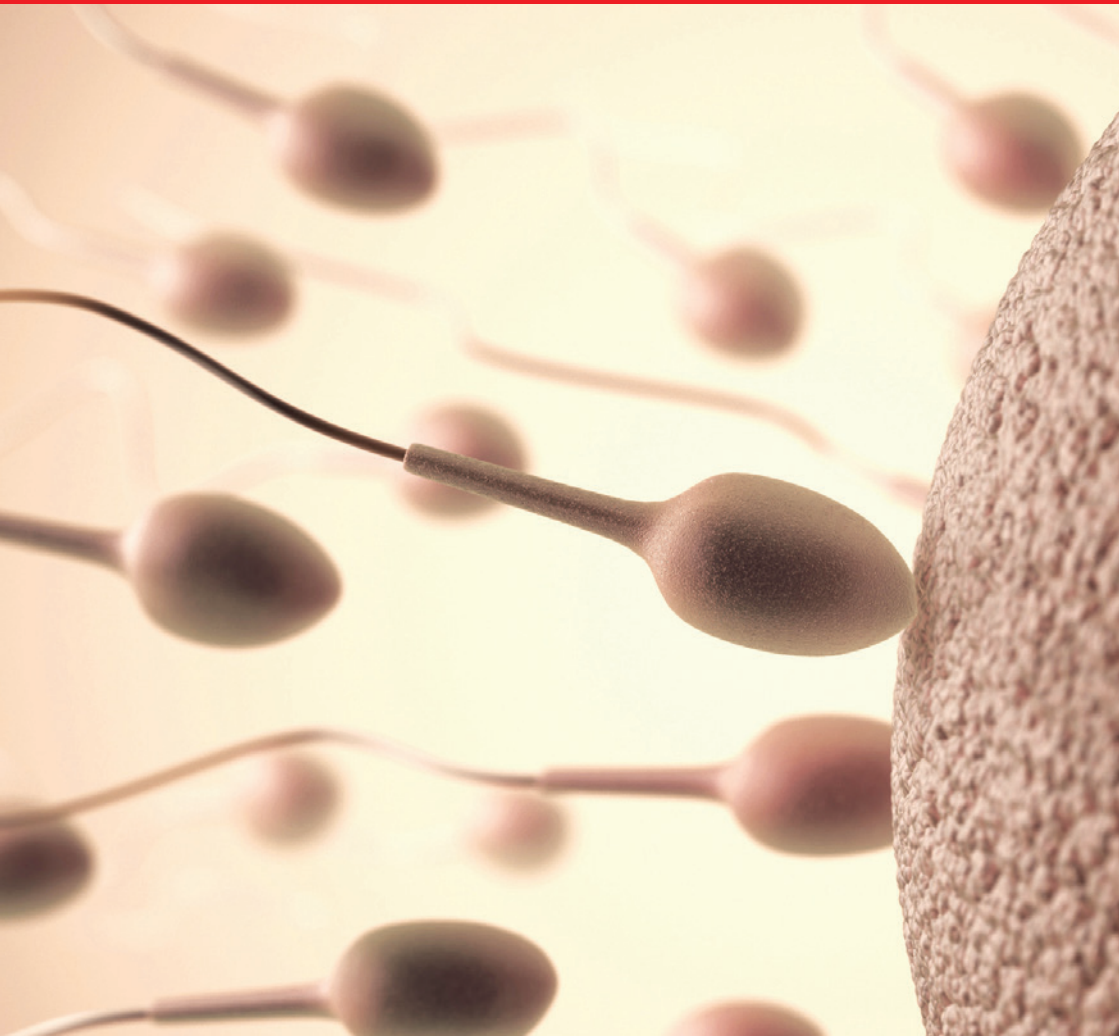


# Andrology

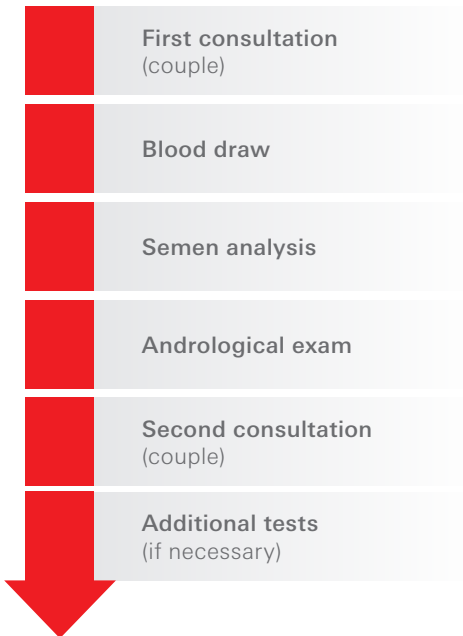
Reproductive Medicine and Gynecological Endocrinology (RME)



# Dear couple,

The complete workup of a couple with infertility involves the testing of both partners for possible underlying causes. In the male partners, in addition to the semen analysis, the workup also includes a confidential visit with the doctor, a physical examination with testicular ultrasound and a blood test. This brochure goes over the different steps of the workup in more detail.

The workup takes place in several steps according to the following scheme:



## **First consultation**

In the initial consultation, we obtain your relevant medical history. The previously sent and completed questionnaire serves as the basis for this visit.

## **Blood draw**

It is not uncommon for male hormone disorders to result in impaired fertility. To exclude these, a blood sample is taken. Concentrations of three important hormones (LH, FSH and testosterone) are determined.

The blood sample is taken in the morning between 7 and 10 o'clock, as there are daily variations in the concentration of these hormones. Failure to take these fluctuations into account may lead to misdiagnosis.

We also test your blood for possible infectious diseases such as hepatitis B and C as well as HIV and syphilis.

## **Semen analysis**

The semen analysis plays a central role in the assessment of male fertility. Some standardization is required for this study. Therefore, we ask you to observe a 2 to 7 day abstinence before submitting the semen sample.

The semen analysis is used to assess the number, mobility and shape of the sperm. In addition to these classical parameters, additional properties can be determined. This includes analysis of DNA damage in sperm (DNA fragmentation). The costs for this so-called TUNEL examination may not be covered by the health insurance (CHF 250.–, as of 2017).

## **Andrologic examination**

A meaningful interpretation of the previously obtained test results is only possible if they are considered in the context of your history, your lifestyle and your physical condition. This is evaluated in a 30-minute appointment, during which the results of the semen analysis are discussed. In addition, a physical examination is performed. A central role of this investigation is the ultrasound assessment the male genital organs. This study can identify important pathology and allows for a correlation of the laboratory examinations with the actual fertility potential. During the physical examination, among other things, the testicular volume is measured, and it is determined whether varicose veins next to the testicle are present (varicocele).

## **Second visit**

Once all the examination results for both partners are available, the second visit takes place. In this we discuss the results of the workup, as well as potential treatments of infertility. In the second visit, it is also decided whether additional tests are necessary (such as a second semen analysis or a genetic examination).

## **Genetic examinations**

If there is a pronounced disturbance in sperm production, a genetic test is recommended. The investigation includes the assessment of the chromosome set (karyotype) and the elucidation of molecular genetic factors. Whether these investigations are useful and necessary is decided on a case-by-case basis.

Our staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have at any time.

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## **Telephone hours**

### **Monday to Wednesday**

7 am to 12 noon and 1 to 5 pm

### **Thursday**

7 am to 12 noon

### **Friday**

7 am to 12 noon and 1 to 5 pm

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