Vitrification

This is a novel technique in the field of cryopreservation of embryos and oocytes. As opposed to the conventional slow freezing methods, vitrification promises to reduce intracellular ice crystal formation with a shorter duration of procedure and better recovery rates. It seems to be lucrative in the freezing of human oocytes, which until now seemed elusive. With the advent of this technology we can freeze and recover oocytes without producing the damage caused by intracellular ice formation, which is detrimental in this case, owing to large cell size and increased water content. This method solidifies a solution into a glassy vitrified state. At present, oocytes can also be frozen using the conventional slow freezing method which we hope to evaluate as a control. The media we use is procured from Singapore and till date, the recovery rate has been one out of every 4 oocytes that have been vitrified. Hence the technique needs to be improvised before it can be readily available for our patients.