If you decide to participate in this study you will contribute information that may help treat men affected by infertility.

If you are interested in this study, please contact:

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WHO IS THE PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR?

Dr. Sai Ma is an associate professor at the University of British Columbia. She has been studying the causes of infertility, and the outcomes of infertility treatments for over 10 years. She established the ICSI program at the UBC Centre for Reproductive Health. She has been invited to speak at various national and international conferences on reproductive health.

This study is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

EPIGENETIC MODIFICATIONS IN SEVERE MALE INFERTILITY

Are you a male experiencing problems with fertility?

If yes, you may want to participate in this important research study.

University of British Columbia
INFERTILITY

1 in 20 men is affected by infertility. The cause of infertility remains unknown in the majority of cases.

EPIGENETICS

Epigenetics is the study of changes in gene activity that are not caused by changes in DNA sequence. In other words, epigenetics is the study of how there can be differences (i.e. in physical traits) between two people with the same DNA.

DNA METHYLATION

DNA methylation is an epigenetic mechanism that allows cells to control the expression of genes. Abnormal gene expression may be associated with infertility.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?

Our study will evaluate sperm abnormalities in men affected by different severities of infertility. We will look at DNA methylation levels and compare them in sperm retrieved from the ejaculate, testis, and epididymis.

For this study, we require a blood and sperm sample from:

1) Men affected by severe oligozoospermia (ejaculate sperm concentration of ≤5 million/ml)
   - Sperm collected from an ejaculate sample

2) Men affected by azoospermia (no sperm in ejaculate)
   - Sperm collected from left over testicular tissue retrieved for the ICSI procedure

3) Men with proven fertility
   - Sperm collected from an ejaculate sample (had to have fathered a child within the last 12 months) or from testicular tissue acquired during a vasectomy reversal procedure

WHAT IS INVOLVED FOR ME IF I PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY?

This is an opportunity to help advance the understanding of the causes of male infertility.

What will be required from you is a blood sample and sperm sample for us to analyze in our study.

Results will be kept confidential. Ethical approval for this study has been obtained from the University of British Columbia/Children’s and Women’s Health Centre of BC Research Ethics Board.

WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC BENEFITS TO ME IF I PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY?

Each study participant will receive Y-chromosome microdeletion testing. This test determines if segments of the Y chromosome (which are important in sperm production) are missing. MSP does not cover this test. However, as a participant in this study, the test will be done free of charge and the results will be sent to your physician (if requested).

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