

### **Limitation of gamete intrafallopian transfer in the treatment of male infertility**

To the Editor: In reference to the letter of Molloy et al. (MJA, October 28, 1985), we have recently started to use gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT) in the treatment of infertile couples. Our methodology is similar to that of Asch et al.:<sup>1</sup> 100 000 motile spermatozoa are placed into each fallopian tube with the ova by means of a 50-cm, 60-gauge Teflon catheter (Cook). The stimulation of follicular growth, the preparation of spermatozoa and the aspiration of oocytes are as described previously for the in-vitro fertilization programme.<sup>2</sup>

A total of 18 couples have been treated so far; nine of the men had oligospermia (less than  $12 \times 10^6$  motile spermatozoa/mL semen), and nine had normospermia. Interestingly, no pregnancies have resulted in women whose partners had oligospermia, whereas four of the nine (44%) continuing pregnancies have been achieved in women whose partners had normospermia. Two of the pregnant women have mild endometriosis, one had unexplained infertility, and one woman had failed to conceive after five years of artificial insemination by donor. The first pregnancy to be achieved is a twin gestation; the delivery is expected in August.

Our preliminary findings confirm that GIFT will prove particularly valuable in the treatment of couples where the husband has normospermia and the wife has patent fallopian tubes. However, the effectiveness of the technique in treating women with oligospermic partners requires further examination; perhaps some modification to the existing technique may need to be made.

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1. Asch RH, Balmaceda FP, Ellsworth L, Wong PC. Gamete intra-fallopian transfer (GIFT): a new treatment for infertility. *Int J Fertil* 1985; 30: 41.
2. Yovich JL, Stanger JD, Tuvik AI, Yovich JM. In-vitro fertilization in Western Australia. A viable service programme. *Med J Aust* 1984; 140: 645-649.