

Raffles Fertility Centre First in Asia to Offer Evie Slow Release Insemination

8 November 2018, Singapore – Raffles Fertility Centre is the first in Asia to introduce the Evie Slow Release Insemination device (Evie). Using the slow release insemination (SRI) technique, clinical trials have shown that Evie doubles the success of pregnancy when compared to standard intrauterine insemination (IUI) for women under 35 years old, and costs less than traditional in-vitro fertilisation (IVF).

In the last 30 years, the number of women having babies in the prime childbearing years of 25 to 29 has declined. Evie is ideal for women who are considering having a baby at a later age as this procedure improves pregnancy rates as compared to standard IUI.

Evie works by delivering prepared sperm into the uterus over a period of four hours. This improves pregnancy success rates as it decreases the risks of sperm from discharging into the abdomen, through the fallopian tubes, and flowing back into the vagina.

By mimicking natural conception, SRI increases the duration of potential contact between the sperm and egg. The slow and gradual process reduces the risks of immunological reactions and polyspermia – a process whereby too many sperm fertilise an egg, rendering it non-functional.

In comparison with IUI, Evie adopts a non-invasive nature that is well tolerated and does not bring about additional discomfort, as it releases the prepared sperm slowly into the uterus via a pump. This discreet single-use pump comprises a balloon catheter and an insemination syringe, and is worn on the user's thigh for the duration of the treatment. It also provides convenience by offering users the flexibility to perform light duties simultaneously.

“The Evie is easy to use and is well received by patients. Overall, my patients had a great experience with Evie and I think this is a very exciting new alternative to standard IUI,” elaborated Dr Seng Shay Way, Specialist in Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Consultant, Raffles Fertility Centre.

He added: “Evie can be recommended as a first line of fertility treatment for couples who are experiencing mid fertility issues. This includes men having anti-sperm antibodies and mild male factor infertility, as well as women suffering from cervical mucus problems and endometriosis.”

RafflesHospital

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RafflesMedicalGroup (SGX: BSL) is a leading integrated private healthcare provider in the region, providing comprehensive services from primary to tertiary care. It is also the first in Asia to join the Mayo Clinic Care Network.

RafflesMedical clinics form one of the largest networks of private family medicine and health screening centres in Singapore.

RafflesHospital, the flagship of Raffles Medical Group, is a private tertiary hospital located in the heart of Singapore offering a wide range of specialist medical and diagnostic services for both inpatients and outpatients. Representing more than 30 disciplines, our team of specialists constitutes a group practice combining sub-specialty expertise and teamwork to ensure optimal, affordable and high quality care for our patients. The Group also has representative offices and patient liaison offices in Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Brunei, Bangladesh and the Russian Far East, as well as associates throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

RafflesMedical International operates medical facilities beyond Singapore in 13 cities across China, Japan, Vietnam and Cambodia, with two international hospitals under construction in Chongqing and Shanghai.

RafflesDental is a team-based multispecialty dental group in Singapore and China.

RafflesHealthinsurance provides healthcare insurance to corporate and individual clients.

For more information, please refer to our website at www.rafflesmedicalgroup.com.

Additional Information

1. Factors that contribute to pregnancy success rates with the SRI technique

- Increased duration of potential contact between the sperm and egg
- Decreased risk of sperm flowing back into the vagina
- Decreased risk of sperm discharging into the abdomen via the fallopian tubes
- Avoids risk of possible polyspermia (when the ovum has been fertilised by more than one sperm, which leads to a non-viable zygote). This may occur because of strong sperm competition with bolus IUI as the sperm are too efficient at reaching and fertilising the ovum.
- Avoids risk of triggering an immune reaction

2. Evie may be recommended as a first line fertility treatment for non-tubal problems if one or more of the following apply

- A couple with unexplained infertility
- Mild male sub-fertility
- Women who have endometriosis (Grade 1 or 2) and have intact fallopian tubes
- Women who have cervical mucus problem
- Men who have anti-sperm antibodies
- Ejaculation is not possible due to impotence or vaginismus
- Retrograde ejaculation (where the semen travel backwards in the bladder)

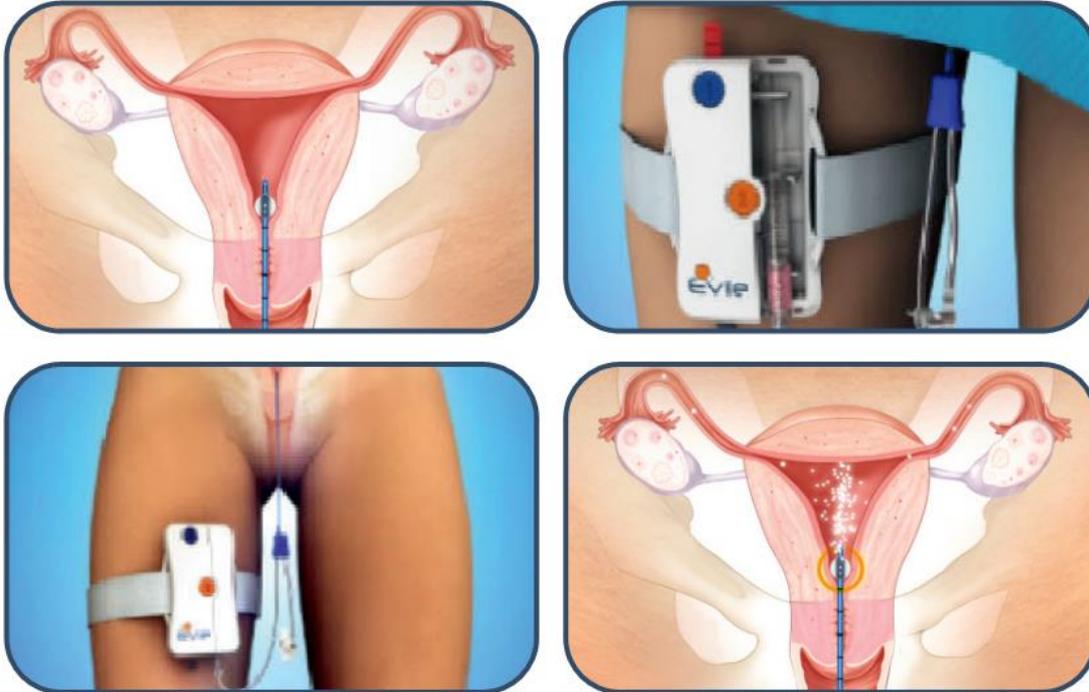
3. Age a major contributing factor to infertility

A woman in her late 20s has an estimated 20 per cent chance of conceiving every month. Her chance of conceiving decreases to 8 per cent if she is in her late 30s and is more likely to suffer from a miscarriage.

4. Estimated costs of fertility treatment procedures in Raffles Fertility Centre

Fertility Treatment	Evie	SO-IUI	IVF
Estimated Costs Per Cycle (Inclusive of fertility medications)	S\$2,700 to S\$3,500	S\$1,800 to S\$2,500	S\$15,000 to S\$20,000

5. Images of Evie



6. Worldwide successful introduction of Evie

Evie was developed in 2012 by Fertigent Ltd, a subsidiary of an early stage medical device company – Reproductive Sciences Ltd, and underwent clinical trials in 2015. In 2017, the Evie was introduced to selected fertility clinics in the United Kingdom and in the United States.

7. The team of specialists at Raffles Fertility Centre are all trained to administer Evie

- Dr Sheila Loh Kia Ee
- Dr Joan Thong Pao-Wen
- Dr Koh Gim Hwee
- Dr Seng Shay Way