

## **In what cases is the In Vitro Fertilization indicated?**

The IVF is recommended in the following cases:

- **When the fallopian tubes do not work properly or are blocked.** In these women, the egg is difficult or impossible to meet with the sperm (causing infertility) and the embryo is difficult or impossible to travel to the uterus (causing an extrauterine pregnancy).
- **Problems with ovulation. In these women.** ovulation (egg hatching) is rare or absent. For this reason they are less fertile than other women.
- **Premature ovarian failure (POF).** In these women with POF, the loss of ovarian function occurs before the age of 40. Loss of the ovarian function makes it impossible for a woman to get fertilized.
- **Endometriosis.** Endometriosis occurs when the cell from the uterine cavity (endometrium) implants out of the uterus, damaging the function of the ovaries (eggs), the fallopian tubes and uterus.
- **Inexplicable infertility.** No cause for infertility was found in these cases.
- **Genetic Diseases / Defects.** If one of the partners is the bearer of a genetic defect, then there is a possibility that this defect is also transmitted to the children of this couple. This can only be avoided through pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) which definitely requires in vitro fertilization. During PGD, the embryos obtained through in vitro fertilization are genetically analyzed and only normal embryos are transferred to the uterus.
- **Maintaining fertility in cases of cancer or other diseases.** If the cancer treatment is planned to begin (radiotherapy, chemotherapy, surgery) then it can harm fertility. For this reason in vitro fertilization is a viable option. Women (depending on whether they are single or have a partner) can store the eggs in the laboratory and use them for fertilization at a second time or fertilize and preserve the embryos to transfer to the uterus at a second moment.