

GLOSSARY

ART (assisted reproductive technology) – All treatments or procedures that involve surgically removing eggs from a woman’s ovaries and combining the eggs with sperm to help a woman become pregnant.

Canceled cycle – An ART cycle in which ovarian stimulation was carried out but which was stopped before eggs were retrieved.

Egg – The female reproductive cell, also called an oocyte.

Egg retrieval – A procedure to collect the eggs contained in the ovarian follicles.

Embryo transfer – Placement of embryos into a woman’s uterus through the cervix after in vitro fertilization.

Fertilization – The penetration of the egg by the sperm and the resulting combining of genetic material that develops into an embryo.

Follicle – A structure in the ovaries that contains a developing egg.

Gestation – The period of time from conception to birth.

In vitro fertilization (IVF) – An ART procedure that involves removing eggs from a woman’s ovaries and fertilizing them outside her body. The resulting embryos are then transferred into the woman’s uterus through the cervix.

Miscarriage – A pregnancy ending in the spontaneous loss of the embryo or fetus before 20 weeks of gestation.

Multifetal pregnancy reduction – A procedure used to decrease the number of fetuses a woman carries and improve the chances that the remaining fetuses will develop into healthy infants.

Oocyte – The female reproductive cell, also called an egg.

Ovarian stimulation – The use of drugs to stimulate the ovaries to develop follicles and eggs.

Sperm – The male reproductive cell.

Ultrasound – A technique used in ART for visualizing the follicles in the ovaries and the gestational sac or fetus in the uterus.