Intrauterine insemination (IUI) is a laboratory procedure to separate fast moving sperm from sluggish or non-motile sperm which are then inserted into the uterus at the time of ovulation.

**Indications**

1) Unexplained infertility  
2) Anovulation  
3) Minor male factor infertility

**Investigations prior to treatment**

1) Hormonal profile  
2) Ultrasound scan  
3) Tubal patency tests: this may be done by a hysterosalpingogram, which is an x ray test involving injecting a dye through the cervix. Alternatively a laparoscopy and dye test may be done. Further details about this procedure are in other sections of the website.  
4) Sperm assessment  
5) Baseline virology assessment for sexually transmitted diseases for both partners. This is a mandatory requirement for the HFEA.

**Treatment**

IUI may be done with or without fertility drugs –

IUI with fertility drugs

Drugs are used to stimulate the growth of one or more follicles in your ovaries. Scans are done to assess the growth of the follicle and decide the timing for IUI. A trigger is given to time the release of the egg and hence IUI. The advantage of using such a drug regime is that pregnancy rates are good and insemination can be planned. The sperm are inserted 24 to 48 hours after the ovulation trigger or LH surge.

**Procedure**

Though out the process a very strict witnessing protocol is followed, with double witnessing at all levels

A speculum is inserted into the vagina (as for a cervical smear test). A catheter (a soft, flexible tube) is then passed into the womb through your cervix. The prepared sperm sample is inserted through the catheter. No sedation or anaesthetic is needed.
Pregnancy Test and Follow up

Your pregnancy test will be due two weeks after IUI.

Following a positive pregnancy test an ultrasound scan will be arranged at 7 weeks of pregnancy.

If unsuccessful you can proceed with the next treatment as previously outlined by your doctor.

Risks

Your doctor will discuss all risks with you before beginning your treatment.

1) Multiple Pregnancies
   For further details please refer to the multiple pregnancy section of the website.
2) Risks of the medication
   Sometimes the medications may result in the formation of more than two follicles, in which case the cycle may have to be abandoned.

Success Rates

These can be found on relevant sections of the website

Costs

NHS funding is available for IUI if you meet the eligibility criteria. If self funding, costs are outlined in the costs section.