

# Semen Analysis: A fast-track to infertility diagnosis

Identifying the cause and cure for male infertility is the poor relation of medical research, according to leading fertility professionals.

World leaders in the field of male reproduction, who attended last November's British Andrology Society's conference in Belfast, learned that UK research bodies spend less than one per cent of their income on reproductive research. That compares with 9 per cent on cardiovascular research and 27 per cent on cancer studies.

Explaining the discrepancy, Professor Sheena Lewis told the conference that health services and governments had failed to make male infertility research a strategic priority; but the lack of funding means that male infertility has now become a public health issue, "Infertility affects one in six couples around Europe and 40% of these problems affect the male partner."

With one-in-six European couples affected, if infertility was a virus, it would probably be deemed an epidemic. In Northern Ireland alone, more than five thousand Northern Ireland couples every year tell their GP that they can't conceive and, contrary to popular belief, the problem is not primarily a female one.

Jenny Hall, managing director of Origin Fertility Care ([www.originfertilitycare.com](http://www.originfertilitycare.com)), Northern Ireland's only independent fertility centre, says, "In addition to medical causes sperm can be damaged by poor lifestyle habits. Smoking, alcohol, drug abuse and

poor lifestyle choices are all factors impacting on male fertility. Men tend not to link lifestyle with infertility."

The most common cause of infertility in men involves abnormal or insufficient sperm but Jenny Hall says that most couples don't want to wait in the hope of a future research breakthrough. "We use diagnostic tests to give couples more information about the causes of their infertility and how to improve their chances of a successful conception. Testing a man's sperm can quickly determine whether or not male related issues are contributing to a couple's infertility and can help us find ways to deal with it." More people are recognising the importance of semen analysis and the demand for this service is growing.

Origin Fertility Care offers a simple, accurate and inexpensive test to help diagnose male infertility, and Jenny Hall says that a semen analysis can eliminate or pinpoint male infertility and allows appropriate treatment to begin immediately, "This is a remarkably effective test and for couples having difficulty conceiving an immediate semen analysis is a no brainer."

Origin offers its semen analysis service in Belfast, Newry and Londonderry. A team of Origin's embryologists travel to the regional clinics monthly to undertake

semen analysis on an appointment basis. Costing £95 the service includes a same-day verbal report to the patient and a written report to the referring doctor within seven days. You can be referred by your GP or simply contact the clinic of your choice to make an appointment.

Jenny Hall says that semen analysis can fast-track infertility diagnosis, "Semen analysis specifically target male issues. For couples who want to identify and eliminate infertility causes quickly, safely and inexpensively this is the way to begin."

*For further information on male factor infertility and its causes contact:*

**Origin Fertility Care**  
on 028 9076 1713  
**Or visit [www.originfertilitycare.com](http://www.originfertilitycare.com)**

*For more information on Origin Fertility Care's semen analysis service contact:*

**Origin Fertility Care**  
on 028 9076 1713  
**North West Independent Hospital**  
on 028 7776 3090  
**Newry Clinic**  
on 028 3025 7708