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Dynamics of folliculogenesis-sonographic assessment and applications in infertility management

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Trans-vaginal sonography along with colour Doppler is the gold standard investigation in assessment of gynaecological and reproductive disorders in females. Besides exclusion of uterine, endometrial and tubal causes, sonography provides non-invasive tool for monitoring individual follicles during menstrual cycle and response to ovarian stimulation. This paper describes various uses of ultrasound in assisted reproductive techniques as the principal non-invasive modality for evaluation of key process of ovarian function – the process of folliculogenesis. Folliculogenesis refers to all phases that a primordial germ cell should pass to become mature healthy oocyte that is subsequently fertilized. It is a constant process that starts in embryogenic period and ends with the disappearance of last functional follicle in the period of menopause. Recognising the quality of follicle, its growth pattern and vascularity has a prognostic value for outcome of assisted reproduction techniques.

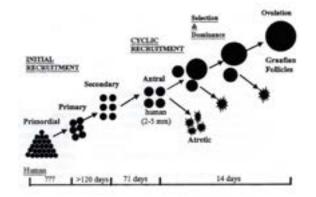


Figure 1: Folliculogenesis - Process of follicle recruitment and development.

Biography

Monica Kansal has been practising Radiology at eminent hospital and educational institutions from last nine years with special interest in Women's imaging.

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