

**What are the patients'  
opinions concerning the use  
of add-ons on reproductive  
medicine? A survey of IVF  
patients**

**DANIELA P.A.F. BRAGA, AMANDA S. SETTI,  
MAURO B. DE ROSE, ASSUMPTO IACONELLI JR.  
EDSON BORGES JR.**

**FERTILITY MEDICAL GROUP / SAPIENTIAE INSTITUTE  
SAO PAULO/SP - BRAZIL**

# DISCLOSURE



- 
- I have nothing to disclose

# Introduction

**INTRODUCTION**

**OBJECTIVE**

**MATERIAL AND  
METHODS**

**RESULTS**

**CONCLUSION**

# Add-ons



9 million

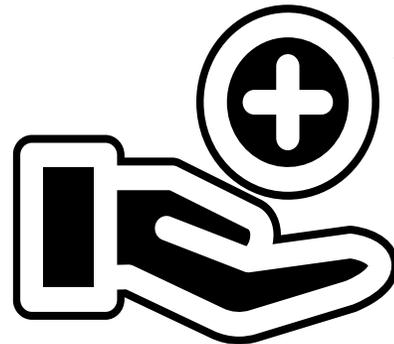


Despite the low delivery rate per fresh embryo transfer

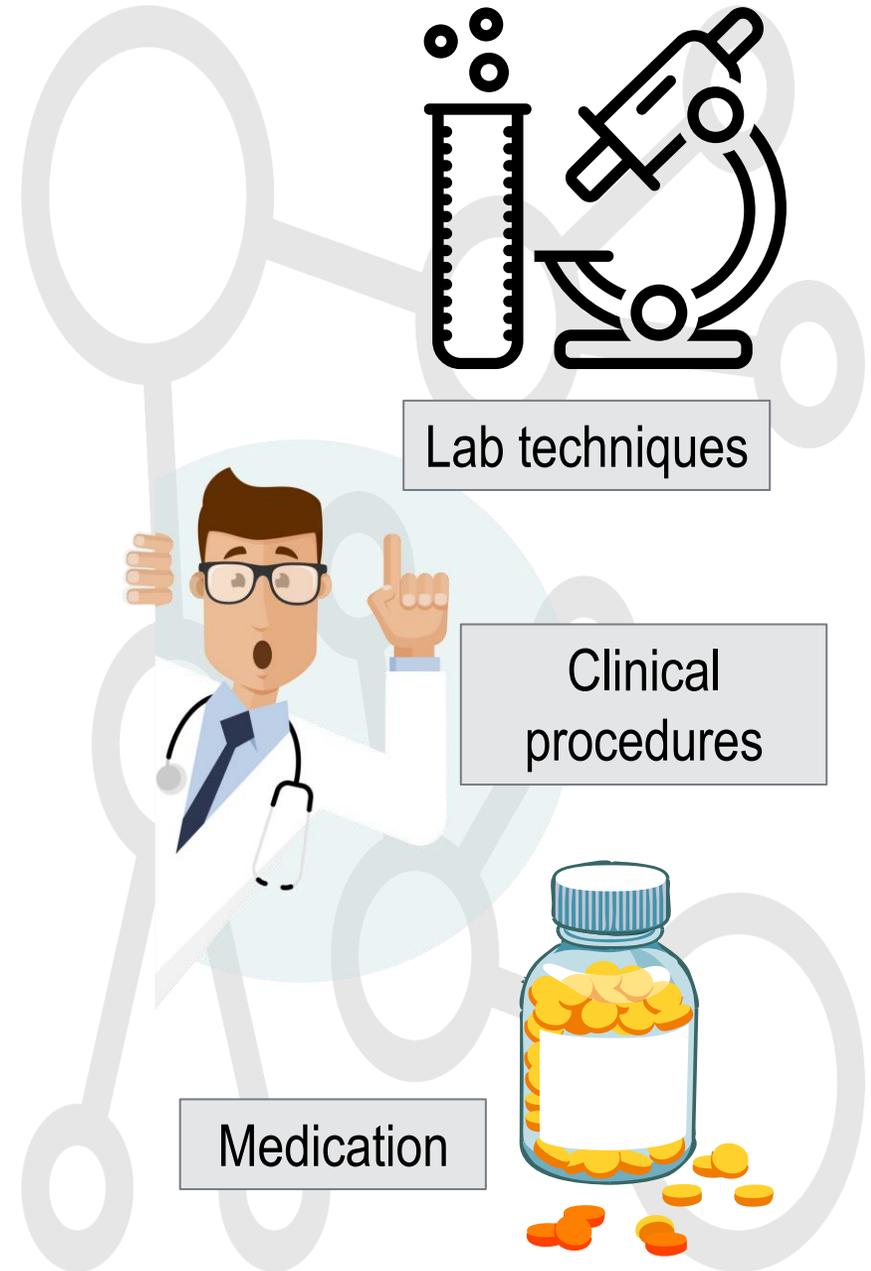
(Lancaster and de Mouzon, 2019)



(Harper et al. 2017)



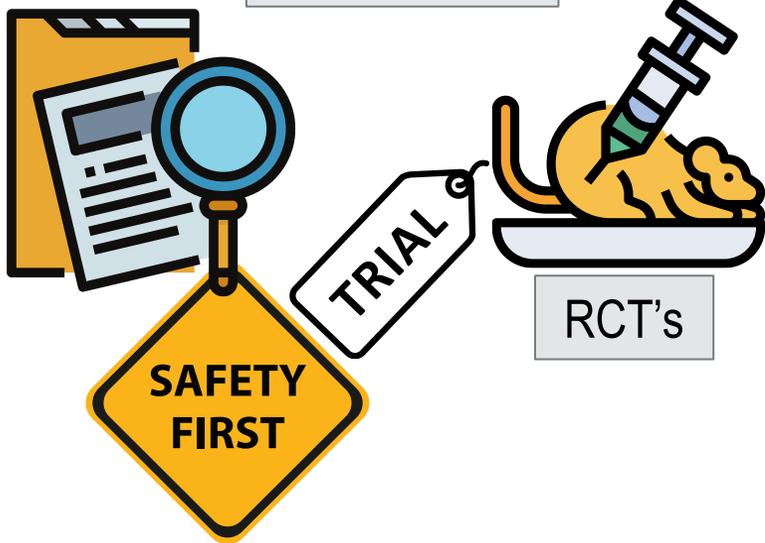
Add-ons



# Regulation / Advertising

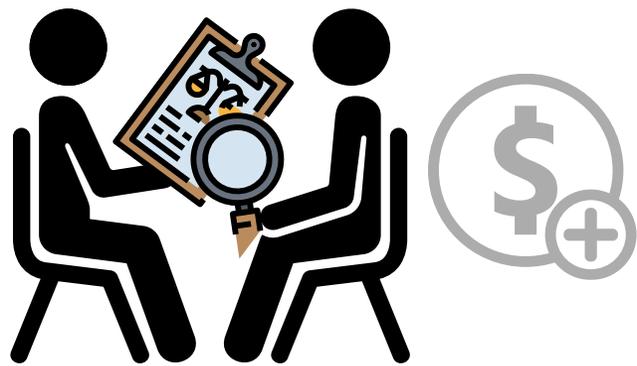


No regulation



RCT's

(van de Wiel et al. 2020)



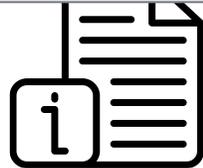
Clinics must inform patients



Over / misselling



Description



Negative effect



Costs



Pregnancy rate



(Galiano et al. 2021)

# Scientific evidence



RCT's



## Treatment add-ons with limited evidence



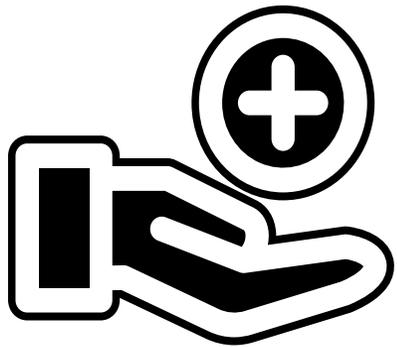
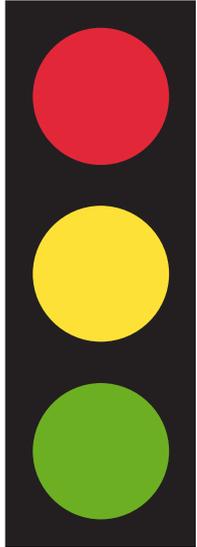
Human Reproduction, Vol.36, No.7, pp. 1854–1861, 2021  
Advance Access Publication on May 4, 2021 doi:10.1093/humrep/deab098

human reproduction ORIGINAL ARTICLE *Infertility*



## How common is add-on use and how do patients decide whether to use them? A national survey of IVF patients

S. Lensen <sup>1,\*</sup>, K. Hammarberg <sup>2,3</sup>, A. Polyakov <sup>1,4,5</sup>,  
J. Wilkinson <sup>6</sup>, S. Whyte <sup>7,8,9,10</sup>, M. Peate <sup>1</sup>, and M. Hickey <sup>1</sup>



82%



Ethical issues - Profitability



Harper et al. 2017, Macklon et al. 2019

# Objective

INTRODUCTION ✓

OBJECTIVE

MATERIAL AND  
METHODS

RESULTS

CONCLUSION

To evaluate the intention to use add-ons to increase the chance of success, among infertile patients, who have already started or will start an IVF treatment

# Material and methods

INTRODUCTION ✓

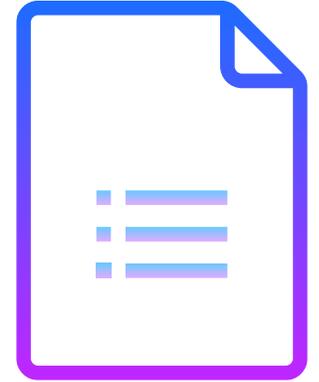
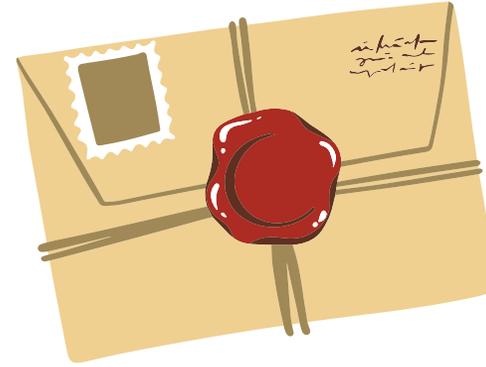
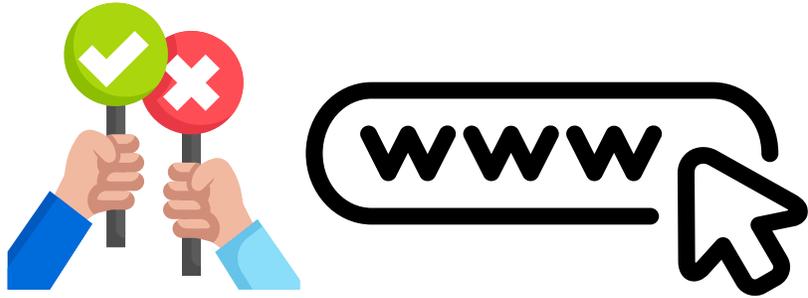
OBJECTIVE ✓

MATERIAL AND  
METHODS

RESULTS

CONCLUSION

# Design



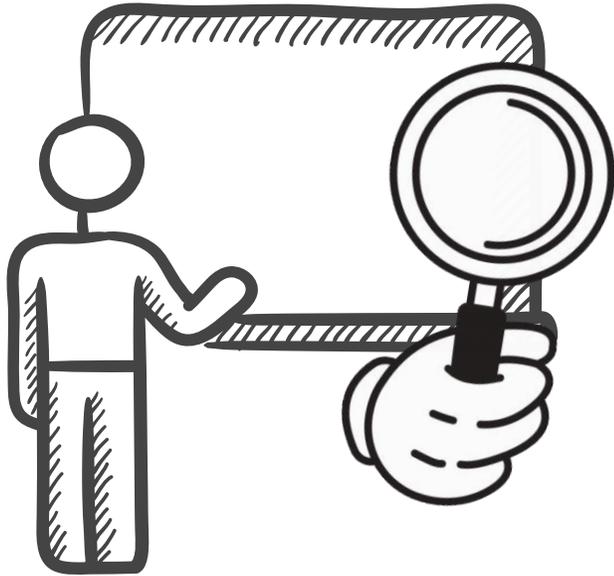
Invitation



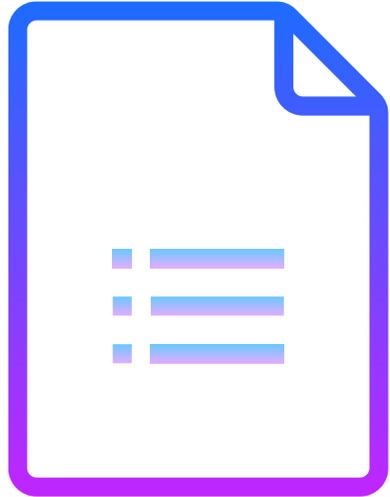
Oct/2021 – Jan/2022



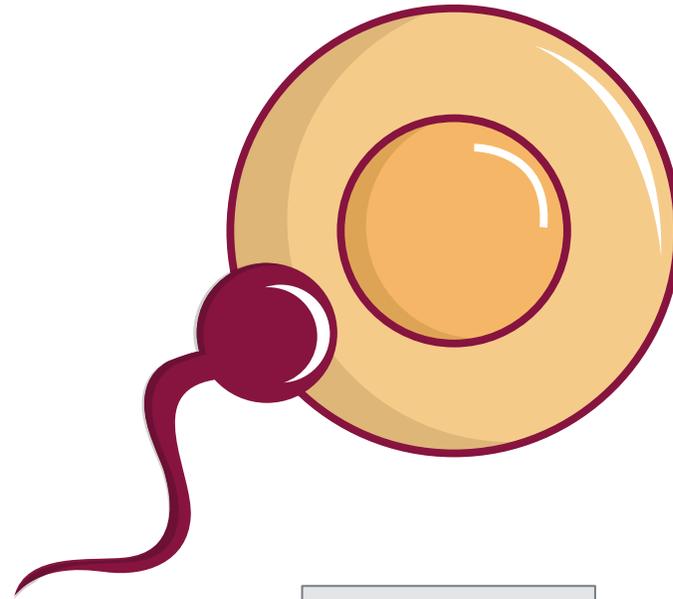
Demographics



“In infertility treatments, there are many therapeutic proposals known as add-on treatments that are offered to the couple to increase the chances of pregnancy, but some have controversial efficacy. That is, they have not yet had the efficiency proven by medicine, but they are made available to the infertile couple”.



Are you undergoing IVF treatment to get pregnant?



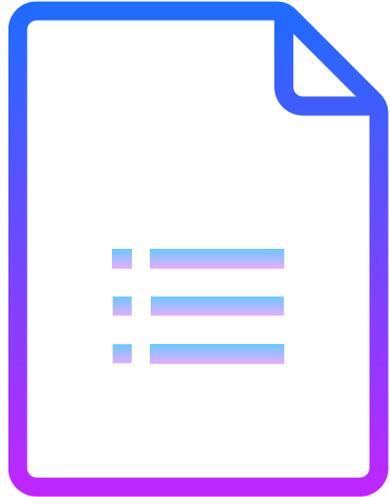
YES



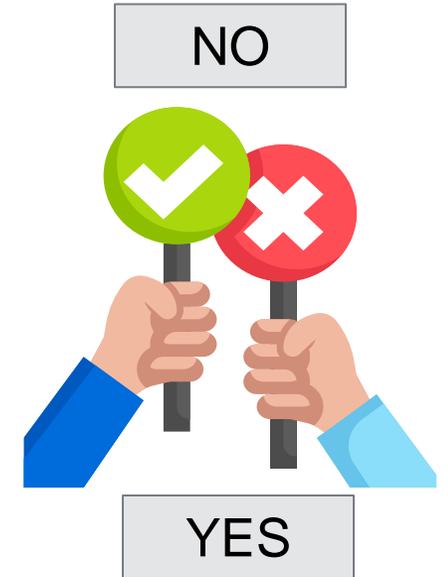
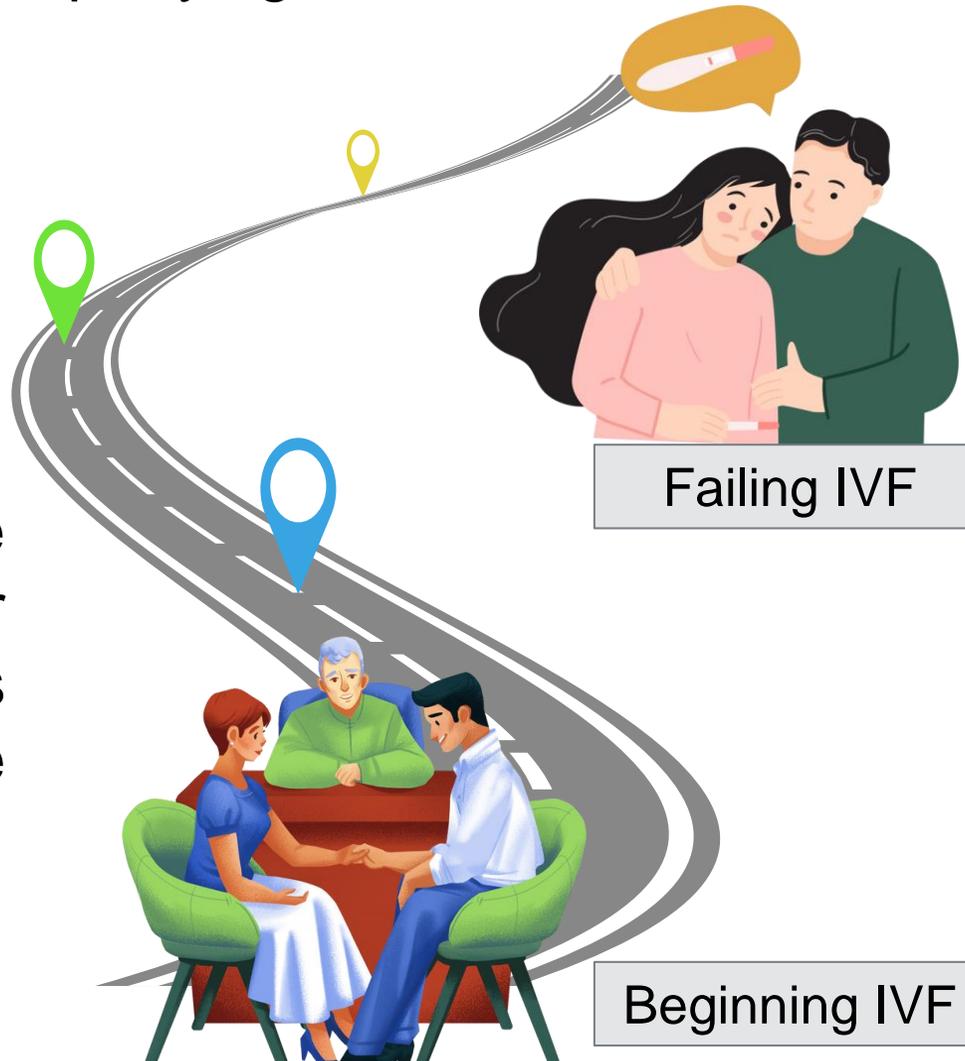
NOT YET



# Design



Would you accept trying these add-on treatments?



If yes, when? From the beginning of the treatment, or only if you had a previous negative result with the conventional technique?



Generalized linear models

- .Bonferroni post hoc
- .Means  $\pm$  SD
- .Regression models:  
OR, 95% CI, p-values



# Results

INTRODUCTION ✓

OBJECTIVE ✓

MATERIAL AND  
METHODS ✓

RESULTS

CONCLUSION

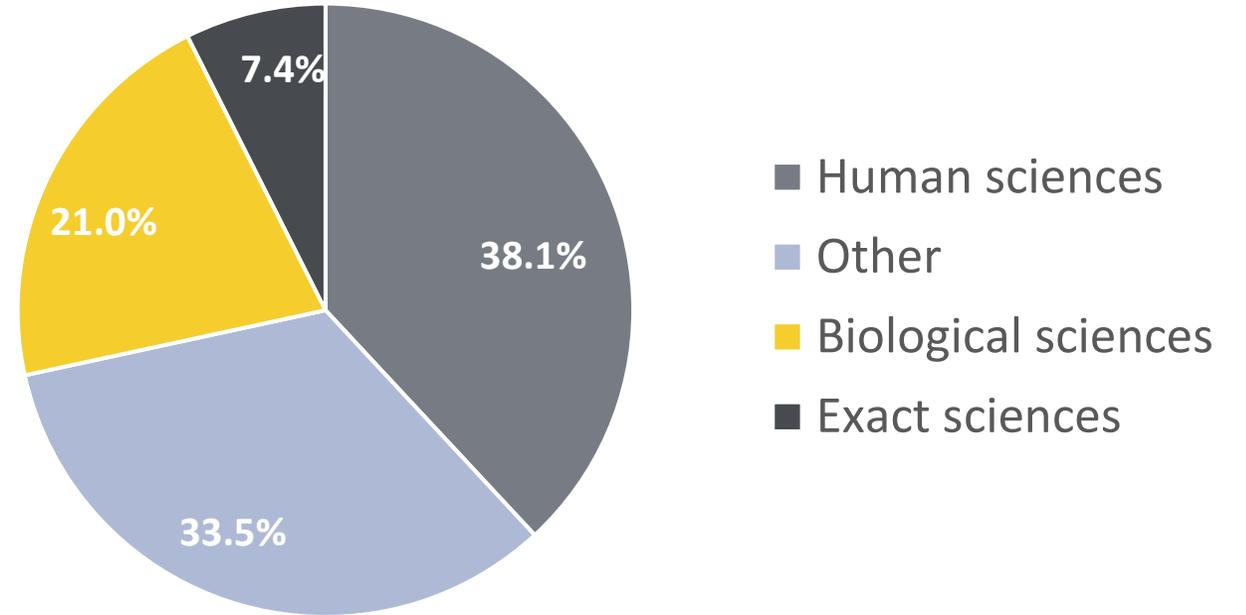
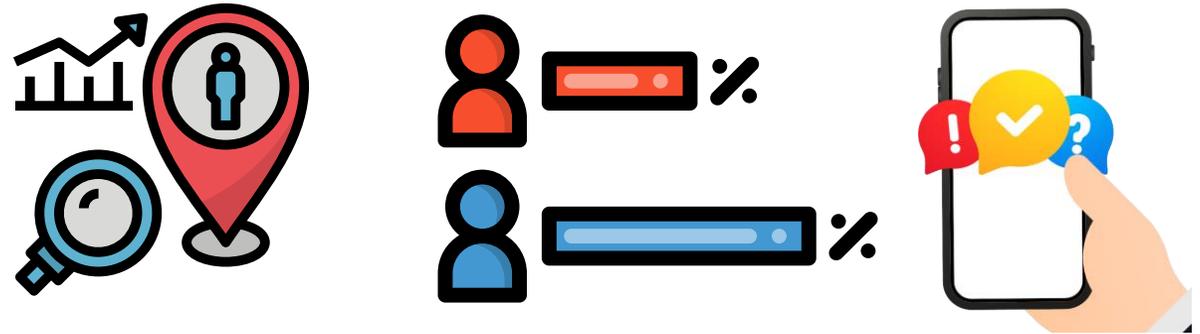
# Demographics

n=620

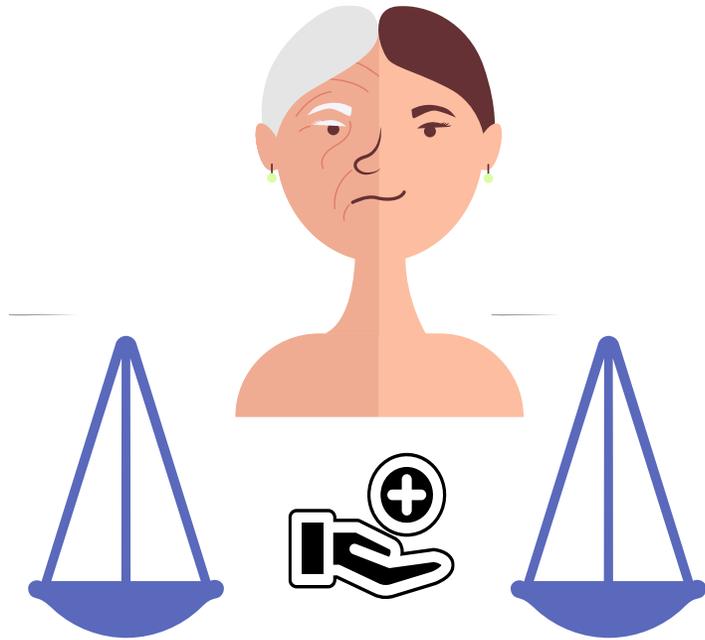
Participants

Mean age  
38.5 ± 5.5 y-old

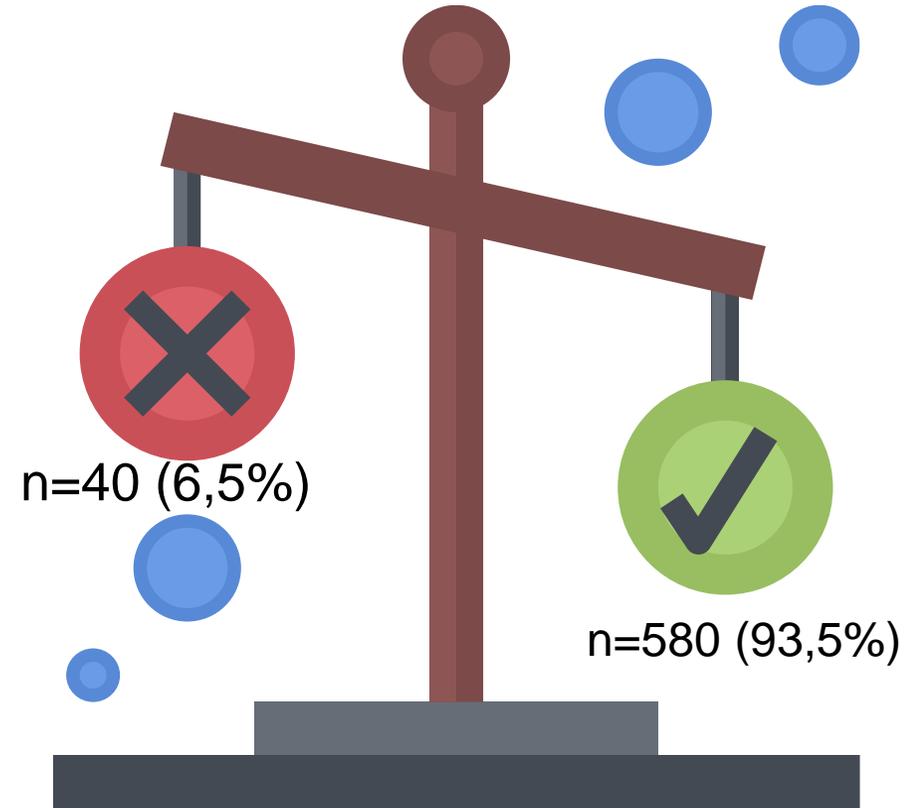
Median: 39.0



# Would you accept trying these add-on treatments?



OR, 0.988, CI: 0.933 – 1.047, p=0.688



If yes, when? From the beginning of the treatment, or only if you had a previous negative result with the conventional technique?

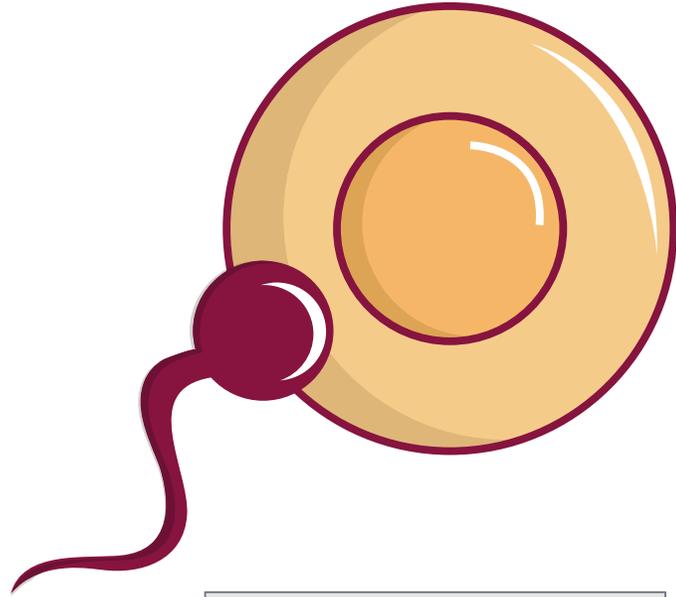


n=136 (23,4%)



n=444 (76,6%)

# Intention to use add-on according to status of IVF treatment



446/460 (97.0%)



135/160 (84.4%),  
 $p < 0.001$



FERTILITY

# Conclusion

INTRODUCTION ✓

OBJECTIVE ✓

MATERIAL AND  
METHODS ✓

RESULTS ✓

CONCLUSION

- ✓ Add-on treatments are well accepted by most infertile patients, especially those who have already started their IVF treatments.



**CONSENSO DELPHI**

**ADD-ONS E REDES SOCIAIS NA REPRODUÇÃO HUMANA**

**ASSISTIDA**

Alvaro Ceschin, Álvaro Petracco, Edson Borges Jr., Emerson Barchi Cordts, Hitomi Miura Nakagawa, Maria do Carmo Borges, Maria Madalena Pessoa Caldas, Newton Eduardo Busso, Paulo Gallo de Sá, Pedro Augusto Araújo Monteleone, Rui Alberto Ferriani



# STAFF



## **Clinical board**

Assumpto Iaconelli Jr.  
Edson Borges Jr.



## **IVF lab**

Kelly C. Pinheiro  
Livia Silvia Vingris  
Patrícia Guilherme  
Tatiana Nunes de Melo



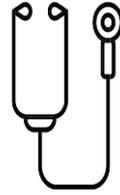
## **Andrology lab**

Rodrigo Rosa  
Provenza



## **Education and research**

Amanda Setti  
Christina Morishima  
Daniela Braga  
Joana Nogueires Simas



## **Clinical body**

Barbara Brigati  
Carla Iaconelli  
Edward Carrilho  
Fernanda Montenegro  
Graziela C. C. Carvalho  
Mario Firmino  
Mauro Bibancos  
Natalia G. Tannous  
Paula Ferreiro Vieira  
Rosane S. Rodrigues



## **Psychology**

Rose M. Melamed



## **Anesthesiology**

Marcelo Torres



## **Nutrition**

Gabriela Halpern



## **Information technology**

Marcelo Alexandre Baptista



## **Nursing**

Larissa Rodrigues Gonçalves  
Maria Regina S. da Silva  
Rosieli Patricia A. da Silva  
Vera Lucia Alves  
Ariele Raiane B. Araujo  
Gabriela Lima Almeida  
Stefany N. Coelho



## **Pharmacy**

Maria das N. Fernandes



## **Administration**

Margaret Meira  
Fabiana Garcia



## **Support**

Edson Pinheiro Ribeiro  
Janaína Gomes Pinho da Silva  
Katia Rodrigu/es  
Lucácio de Souza Anjos  
Marcos Vinícius de Sousa  
Simone de S. Carvalho  
Leonardo S. Lopes