

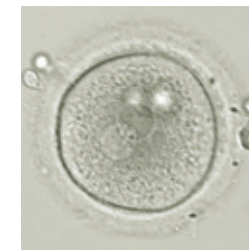


Making Dreams Come True with Fertility Treatments

The center also expanded its participation with managed care insurance plans. “This makes it easier for couples and single women from Connecticut and New York to receive reimbursement for fertility services,” said Nancy Diamond, the center’s administrator.

New embryology laboratory marks start of a new chapter

Fertility services in a compassionate setting
 Located at 55 Holly Hill Lane, the Greenwich Fertility & IVF Center provides clinical treatments and assisted reproductive laboratory techniques (ART) with a staff of reproductive endocrinologists, clinical nurses, laboratory embryologists and andrologists. Services range from in vitro fertilization to preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD). Fino, who has a special interest in egg freezing, hopes to increase awareness about this procedure, “especially among cancer patients who want to preserve their fertility. We need to get the word out that our program offers this important option.”



Greenwich Fertility & IVF Center has reached a new milestone in its quest to bring assisted reproductive services closer to home with the opening of an embryology laboratory at Greenwich Hospital.

Women having IVF undergo the egg retrieval and embryo transfer procedures at the ambulatory medical unit in Greenwich Hospital’s Watson Pavilion. “Patients get the best of both worlds – access to NYU’s embryologists combined with the service excellence and patient satisfaction associated with Greenwich Hospital,” said Diamond.

State-of-the-art embryology laboratory
 Few things bring more satisfaction to the embryology team than the view of a developing embryo ready for implantation. Patients in the IVF procedure room can see a picture of their embryo before implantation.

“Embryologists are responsible for the preparation and fertilization of sperm and eggs in the laboratory and for monitoring the development of these embryos until they are transferred back into the uterus,” said Lewis Krey, PhD, director of the embryology and andrology laboratories at both the NYU and Greenwich fertility centers. “At each of these procedural steps, we take multiple security precautions to prevent any identification mishaps.”

“We can now perform the entire in vitro fertilization (IVF) procedure – including egg retrievals, embryo transfers and embryo freezing – in our own procedure room and embryology lab in Greenwich,” said Barry R. Witt, MD, a board-certified reproductive endocrinologist and the center’s medical director. The development does not change Greenwich Fertility & IVF Center’s long-standing program affiliation with the New York University Fertility Center, which has among the highest success rates in the nation.

This affiliation was strengthened with the addition of M. Elizabeth Fino, MD, who joined the Greenwich Fertility & IVF Center practice last fall after completing her reproductive endocrinology and infertility fellowship at New York University Fertility Center. “I’m excited about bringing this level of expertise and cutting-edge technology to the community in such an intimate setting,” she said. “Patients appreciate the individualized care.”



M. Elizabeth Fino, MD, a reproductive endocrinologist, meets with couples at the Greenwich Fertility and IVF Center. Above, Barry R. Witt, MD, the center’s medical director, prepares to perform an in vitro fertilization procedure at Greenwich Hospital. The entire IVF procedure – from egg retrievals and embryo transfers to embryo freezing – can be performed at the hospital’s embryology facility.





He attributes the lab's high fertility success rates to a variety of factors:

- Embryologists use superior methods for analyzing and processing or "washing" the sperm for intrauterine inseminations. "We're able to separate the bad sperm from the good so motility is as close to 100 percent as possible," said Krey.
- Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) involves the direct injection of a single sperm into eggs obtained during IVF. "We may use ICSI when we suspect fertilization may be difficult, especially for couples dealing with male infertility factors," said Kevin Lambrese, an embryologist.

Embryologist Kevin Lambrese uses powerful microscopes to perform procedures such as intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), which involves the direct injection of a single sperm into eggs obtained during in vitro fertilization.



- Maturing embryos individually rather than in a group is another plus. "Monitoring development on an embryo-by-embryo basis allows for the selection of the embryo for transfer to the uterus that we believe will have the highest chance of initiating a successful pregnancy," said Krey.

Making lifelong bonds

For many patients, the experience with the Greenwich Fertility and IVF Center turns into a lifelong connection. Jennifer Titus of Fairfield – the center's first patient six years ago – has twin boys who just started kindergarten. "I send pictures to the staff every Christmas so they can see how the boys are growing," she said. "They are part of our extended family."

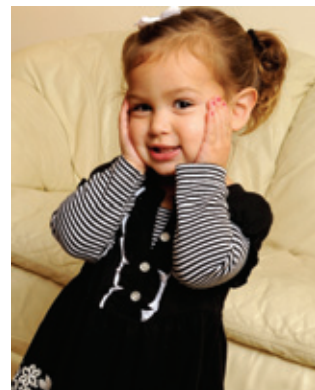


Barry R. Witt, MD, a board-certified reproductive endocrinologist, closely monitors patients at the Greenwich Fertility & IVF Center at 55 Holly Hill Lane. The entire staff is committed to providing personalized care in a supportive environment.



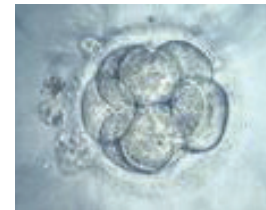


Gina and Chris Zeni of the Bronx, NY, turned to the Greenwich Fertility and IVF Center for assistance in starting their family. Two-year-old Samantha is looking forward to the birth of her baby brother this spring.



Meet the Zeni Family

Parenthood becomes a reality with in vitro fertilization



Gina and Chris Zeni had abandoned hope of ever becoming parents after a decade of consulting fertility experts and undergoing expensive treatments to no avail.

So when a friend recommended the Greenwich Fertility & IVF Center, Gina called hesitantly, expecting to find a long wait for an appointment with a reproductive endocrinologist.

But within days, she and her husband were consulting with Barry Witt, MD, the center's medical director, who encouraged them to consider in vitro fertilization. "We had such a positive feeling," said Gina of their first encounter. "It just felt right."

Today the Zenis have their hands full as parents of two-year-old Samantha. Plus Gina, 35, is awaiting the birth of their second child, a boy.

"That place is magic," said Gina. "It has been such an uplifting and amazing experience."

A resident of the Bronx, NY, the Zenis could have chosen a number of fertility centers from the tri-state area. "But I never felt comfortable proceeding with in vitro fertilization until I found Dr. Witt and the staff at the fertility center," she said. "It was a nice change from the commercialized centers I had been to in the past."

Under Witt's direction, Gina underwent an egg retrieval procedure. "Two embryos implanted a few days later led to Samantha's birth," she explained. "Other embryos were frozen for future use." The couple decided it was time to expand their family last spring.

Gina attributes her success with IVF to Witt's "aggressive monitoring" and the staff's personalized attention. "They go out of their way to make it easy – from private, one-on-one medication classes to convenient appointments for blood work and monitoring," she said. "They hold your hand through the whole process. They are truly wonderful people."

During her first pregnancy, Gina developed complications. She stayed on bed rest for seven months under the direction of Annette Bond, MD, FACOG, medical director of maternal-fetal medicine at Greenwich Hospital. Despite the challenges, Gina was so pleased with the "level of care and individual attention" she was getting that the couple changed plans and decided the birth would take place at Greenwich Hospital.

"The professionalism at the fertility center and Greenwich Hospital was incredible," agreed Chris. "I had peace of mind knowing my wife and baby were in good hands."

Gina's looking forward to giving birth again at Greenwich Hospital in the spring. "Samantha is excited about meeting her baby brother!"