

# Implantation Clinic

Biomedical Research Unit in  
*Reproductive  
Health*



University Hospitals **NHS**  
Coventry and Warwickshire  
NHS Trust

The Implantation Clinic at the Biomedical Research Unit in Reproductive Health, based at University Hospital Coventry and Warwick, is able to offer support, advice and cutting edge diagnostics for couples experiencing IVF failure and recurrent miscarriage. The Clinic is led by Professor Siobhan Quenby, Honorary Consultant Obstetrician and Professor Jan Brosens, Honorary Consultant Gynaecologist, both leading researchers in the field of Implantation Failure.



Professor Siobhan Quenby



Professor Jan Brosens

# Implantation Clinic

Biomedical Research Unit in  
**Reproductive**

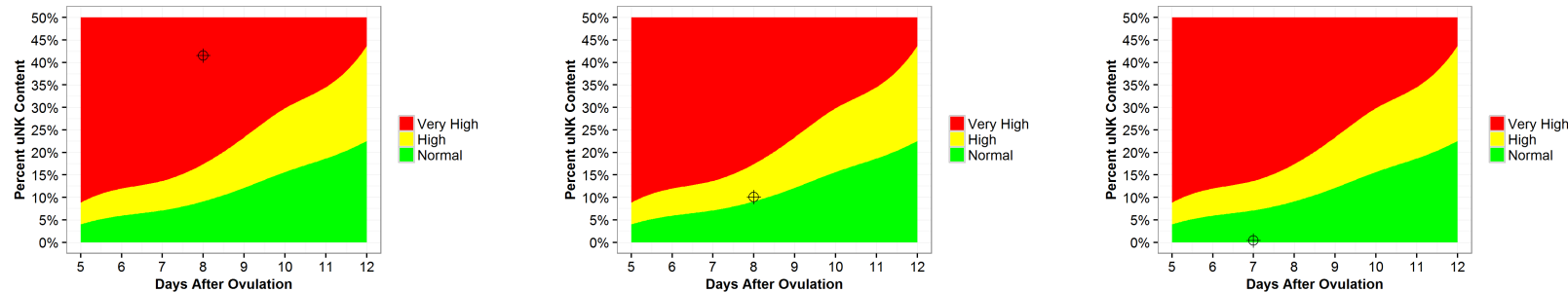


## Consultation and uNK cell Variance Testing

### What is the Clinic for?

Miscarriages and IVF treatment failure are very distressing events. In some people the lining of the womb (endometrium) contributes to the problems with reproduction. Our research has shown that some women who have miscarriages and implantation failures have too many uterine Natural Killer cells (uNK) in the lining of their womb. The percentage of uNK cells (uNK%) varies from time of ovulation and with the menstrual cycle on a month to month basis.

We have developed an accurate method of assessing the uNK% using digital image analysis and can compare your level to that of a range of values generated from 1,700 samples. We are offering a service where we can test your uNK cell levels and the monthly variation in this by taking two small biopsies from the lining of your womb one or more months apart.



We have found that the uNK% often improves between testing. We have also found that a high uNK% indicates a shortage of steroid hormones and that a steroid drug, called Prednisolone, can decrease the uNK%. Testing is therefore useful for timing future attempts at conception and guiding the clinical advice as to the need for steroids.

The BRU Implantation Clinic is an academic research clinic. It is staffed by academics and clinicians working for the University of Warwick. The clinic and uNK cell testing are funded by charging patients who attend the clinic a fee (currently £540) for 2 biopsies.

### How do I get an appointment?

You will need to contact us directly as the timing of the consultation depends on the day of ovulation in the cycle (see below for details).

# Implantation Clinic

Biomedical Research Unit in  
**Reproductive  
Health**



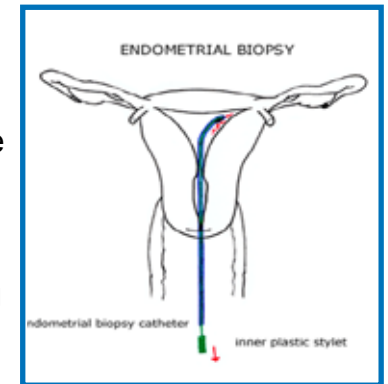
## What will happen at my appointment?

You will have a detailed consultation with Professor Quenby or Professor Brosens in which you will discuss your reproductive history and general health.

You will then have a transvaginal ultrasound scan, which is an internal scan to examine your pelvis. You will need to have an empty bladder.

We will then take a biopsy from the lining of the womb. This is taken in a similar way to a cervical smear but using a fine tube to remove a small piece of your endometrium. You may experience some mild discomfort whilst your biopsy is being taken.

In total, the consultation will last approximately 30 minutes.



## Are there any complications?

It is important that you are **not pregnant** when the procedure is performed. So you must use **barrier methods**, such as condoms, for the 4 weeks prior to having your sample taken. If the sample is taken whilst you are pregnant, it could possibly cause a miscarriage, although the risk is small.

The risk of any damage to your womb during the procedure is absolutely minimal. If any damage does occur, it should heal without further treatment.

## How long do the results take?

The sample will be processed in a laboratory at the hospital and then analysed by BRU staff. On average, the results should be available within 4-6 weeks from the date of the test.



### If I want to have the test done, what should I do next?

You will need to buy an ovulation kit from your local Chemist shop.

You must then start to use an effective barrier method of contraception and start monitoring your ovulation according to the instructions provided with your ovulation kit. You must note down the day of ovulation and bring this with you to the clinic.

When you ovulate, contact us immediately to make an appointment at: **024 7696 7528 or [kerri.geraghty@uhcw.nhs.uk](mailto:kerri.geraghty@uhcw.nhs.uk)**

We will offer to see you 7-10 days after ovulation we need to know the day of ovulation at the clinic visit.

### What is the cost of the test?

The test costs £540 and covers a package of:

Professorial consultation, ultrasound scan, endometrial biopsy, biopsy processing and uNK cell analysis, test results and a telephone consultation to discuss the results on two occasions.

You can pay by Chip and PIN at the time of your appointment. We also accept cheques payable to University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire

---

# Implantation Clinic

Biomedical Research Unit in

**Reproductive  
Health**



### A brief summary of what to do:

- Contact us for information or ask GP or consultant for a referral letter



- Purchase an ovulation kit and monitor your ovulation



- When you ovulate, ring or email us: 02476967528 or [kerri.geraghty@uhcw.nhs.uk](mailto:kerri.geraghty@uhcw.nhs.uk)



- Receive an appointment with Prof Quenby or Brosens 7-10 days later, at UHCW
- Attend the clinic, where we take your medical history you must bring the date of ovulation with you to the clinic
- Discuss a uNK cells investigation via endometrial biopsy



- A Transvaginal ultrasound scan will be performed
- The test will be explained and your consent obtained
- The endometrial biopsy is then taken



- The biopsy is processed and analysed
  - An E Mail is sent to you with the results
  - You will have a telephone consultation to discuss the results with Professor Quenby or Professor Brosens.
- A letter will be emailed to you with a treatment plan for you to take to your GP and fertility/miscarriage specialist.



**IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US AT:**

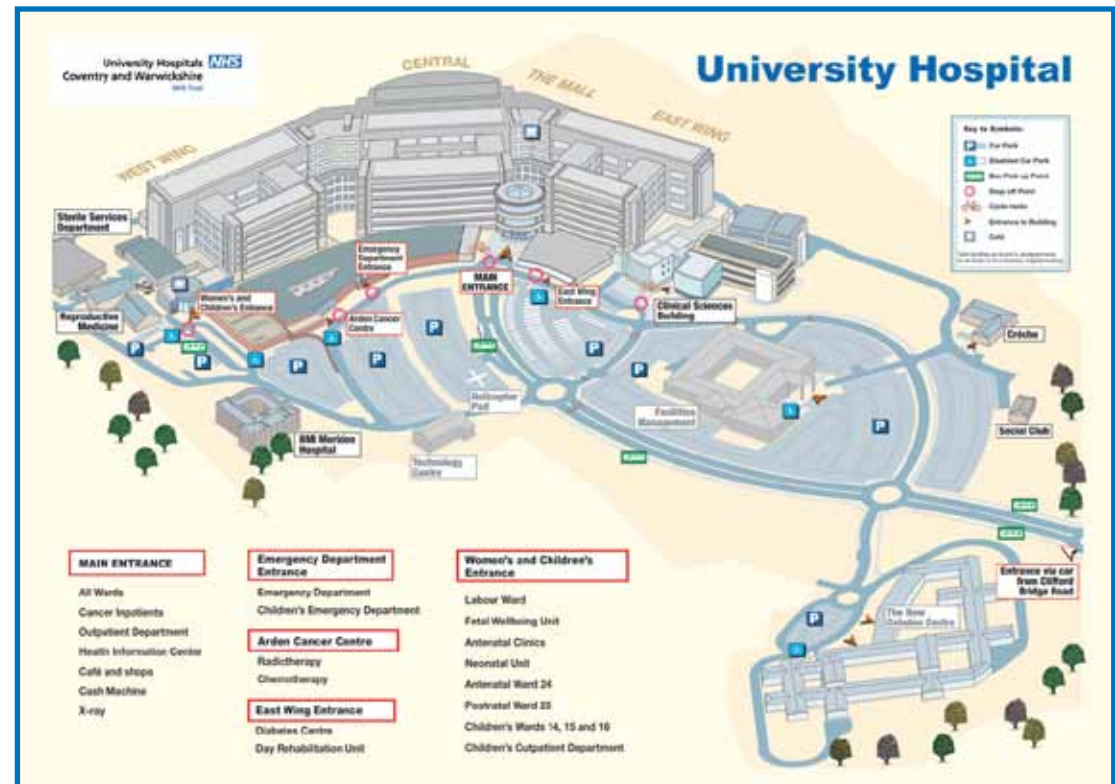
Kerri Geraghty  
Biomedical Research Unit Secretary  
024 7696 7528  
[kerri.geraghty@uhcw.nhs.uk](mailto:kerri.geraghty@uhcw.nhs.uk)

**How to find us:**

Centre for Reproductive Medicine  
Reproductive Medicine Building  
University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire  
Clifford Bridge Road  
Coventry  
CV2 2DX

Follow signs for 'Reproductive Medicine', to the left of the Women's and Children's Entrance.

For more details, go to:  
<http://www.uhcw.nhs.uk/find-us/university-hospital>



# Implantation Clinic

Biomedical Research Unit in  
**Reproductive Health**

