

Artificial Insemination

City hospital achieves breakthrough

By a Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, JULY 7: A Guwahati-based medical institute has achieved the unique distinction of artificially inseminating a woman using latest technology recently. The Institute of Human Reproduction (IHR) employed the sophisticated semen intra fallopian transfer (SIFT) technique for "washing" the sperm of the father, whose sperm count as well as sperm mortality were low.

What is noteworthy is that this for the first time in the north-east that this technology was employed to impregnate a woman. Moreover, this was first such undertaken by the IHR and the second such successful delivery in the city, the first being at the Assisted Reproductive Centre at Bangalore.

According to the director of the Institute, Dr M L Goenka, Mr Suresh Pandit and Mrs Saroj Devi had been married for six years but had no children.

The couple were referred to the IHR by the hospital at the Guwahati refinery, of which Mr Pandit is an employee, a few months back. Mr Pandit's sperm count was as low as 1 million when the count should normally be more than 50 million. Moreover, the mortality rate of the sperms was about ten per cent of low grade when it should normally be about 60 per cent.



GUWAHATI: Mrs Saroj Devi along with the child. Also seen (Insert) Dr M.L. Goenka, director of Institute of Human Reproduction.

Having diagnosed the problem, Dr Goenka and his team of dedicated doctors employed the SIFT technology where the sperm was "washed" and then transferred to the ovary just prior to ovulation.

Dr Goenka informed that Mrs Devi became pregnant in the very first attempt and delivered a healthy baby after undergoing a Caesarian section on June 24 last. The baby, delivered after 32 weeks of pregnancy, was kept in the incubator for six days and both mother and child are healthy now.

Terming this as a "great achievement", Dr Goenka explained that the SIFT technique is moderately expensive and costs a minimum of Rs 10,000. He further added that the IHR would soon be introducing two other techniques for artificial insemination, viz, the gammet intra fallopian transfer (GIFT) and the in-vitro fertilisation and embryo transfer, or the "test tube", technology.

Dr Goenka further added that only two other private medical institutes in the country-- the one at Bangalore and the other at Bombay are equipped to employ such techniques, which are, however, beyond the reach of the poor people. Due to the sophisticated nature of the work and the high cost of equipments, none of the government hospitals in the country undertake such operations.