

# PATERNAL LIFESTYLE FACTORS AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO SEMEN QUALITY AND IN VITRO REPRODUCTIVE OUTCOMES

Amanda Setti<sup>1,2</sup>, Daniela Paes de Almeida Ferreira Braga<sup>1,2</sup>, Rita de Cássia Sávio Figueira<sup>1</sup>, Rodrigo R. Provenza<sup>1</sup>; Assumpto Iaconelli Jr.<sup>1</sup>, Edson Borges Jr. <sup>1,2</sup>

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# INTRODUCTION

Infertility: 15% of the couples

Male  
factor

Others

World Health Organization (WHO)

- Sperm count
- Sperm motility
- Sperm morphology

Normal

Abnormal



# INTRODUCTION

Human Reproduction Update, Vol.23, No.6 pp. 646–659, 2017

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human  
reproduction  
update

## Temporal trends in sperm count: a systematic review and meta-regression analysis

Hagai Levine <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Niels Jørgensen <sup>3</sup>, Anderson Martino-Andrade<sup>2,4</sup>, Jaime Mendiola<sup>5</sup>, Dan Weksler-Derri<sup>6</sup>, Irina Mindlis<sup>2</sup>, Rachel Pinotti<sup>7</sup>, and Shanna H. Swan<sup>2</sup>

In this comprehensive meta-analysis, sperm counts whether measured by SC or TSC declined significantly among men from North America, Europe and Australia during 1973–2011, with a 50–60% decline among men unselected by fertility, with no evidence of a ‘leveling off’ in recent years. These findings strongly suggest a significant

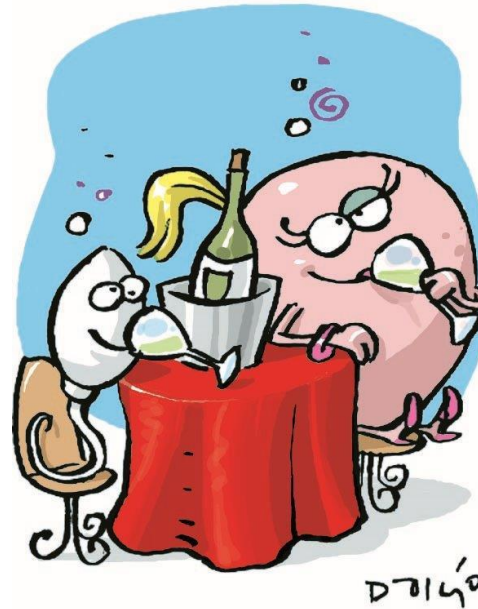
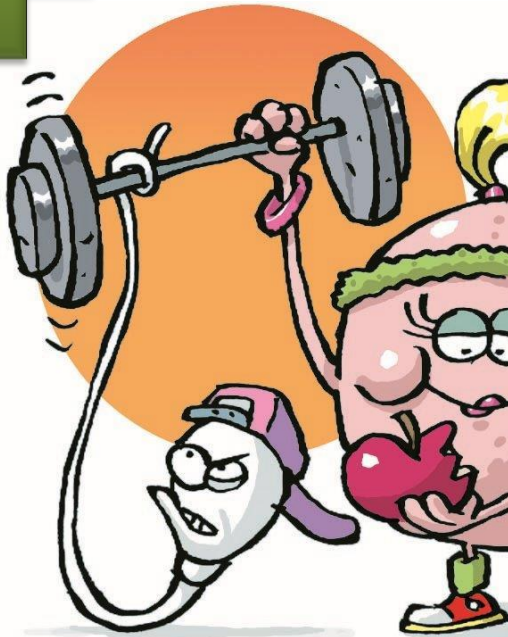
# INTRODUCTION

Decline in  
semen quality



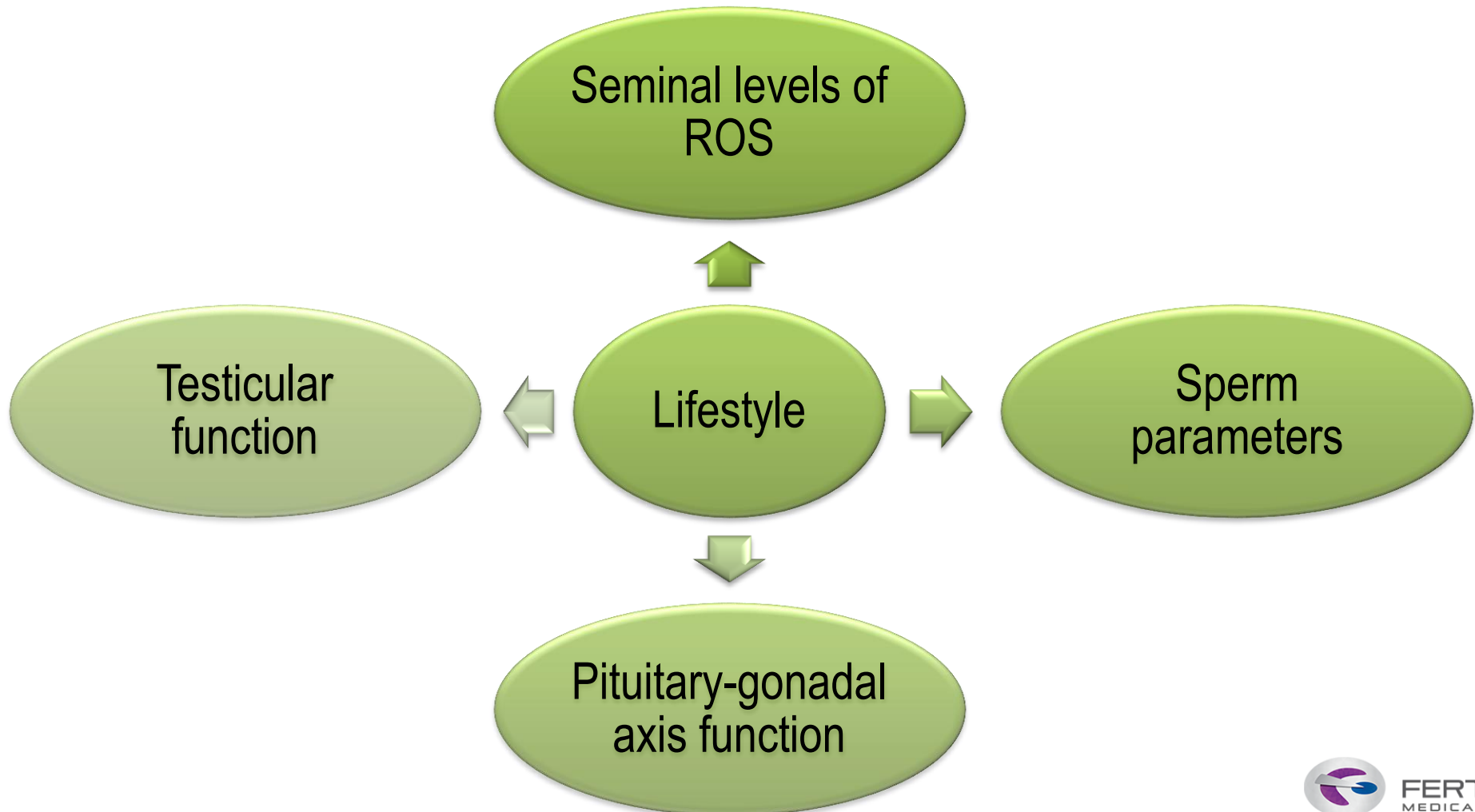
Multifactorial

Lifestyle factors



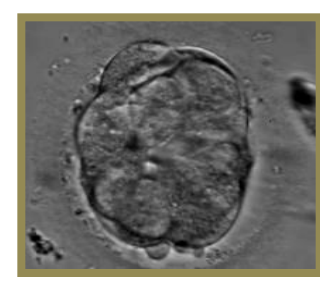
# INTRODUCTION

The role of reactive oxygen species and oxidative stress in semen quality decline has also been investigated



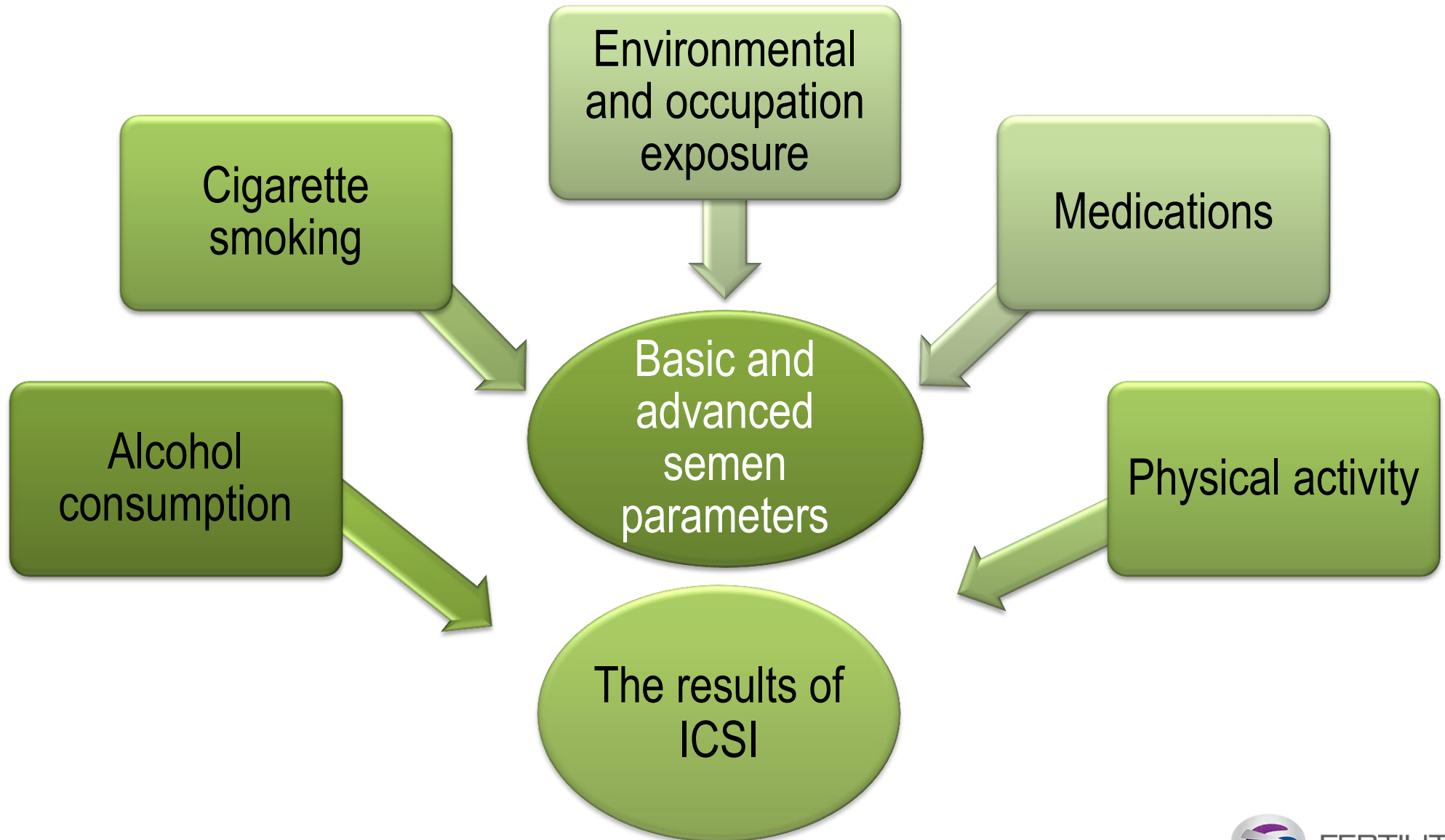
# INTRODUCTION

Influenced by  
sperm-derived  
factors that  
may impact  
ICSI outcomes



- ✓ Lifestyle factors are under one's own control and could be modified to improve general health
- ✓ Adjusting for their influence may yield valuable information for counseling couples submitted to ICSI

# OBJECTIVE





# MATERIALS AND METHODS

- STUDY DESIGN

Prospective cohort study

Patients undergoing  
conventional semen  
analysis

965 patients

Alcohol consumption  
Cigarette smoking  
Environmental exposure  
Occupation exposure  
Medications  
Physical activity

Semen  
Quality

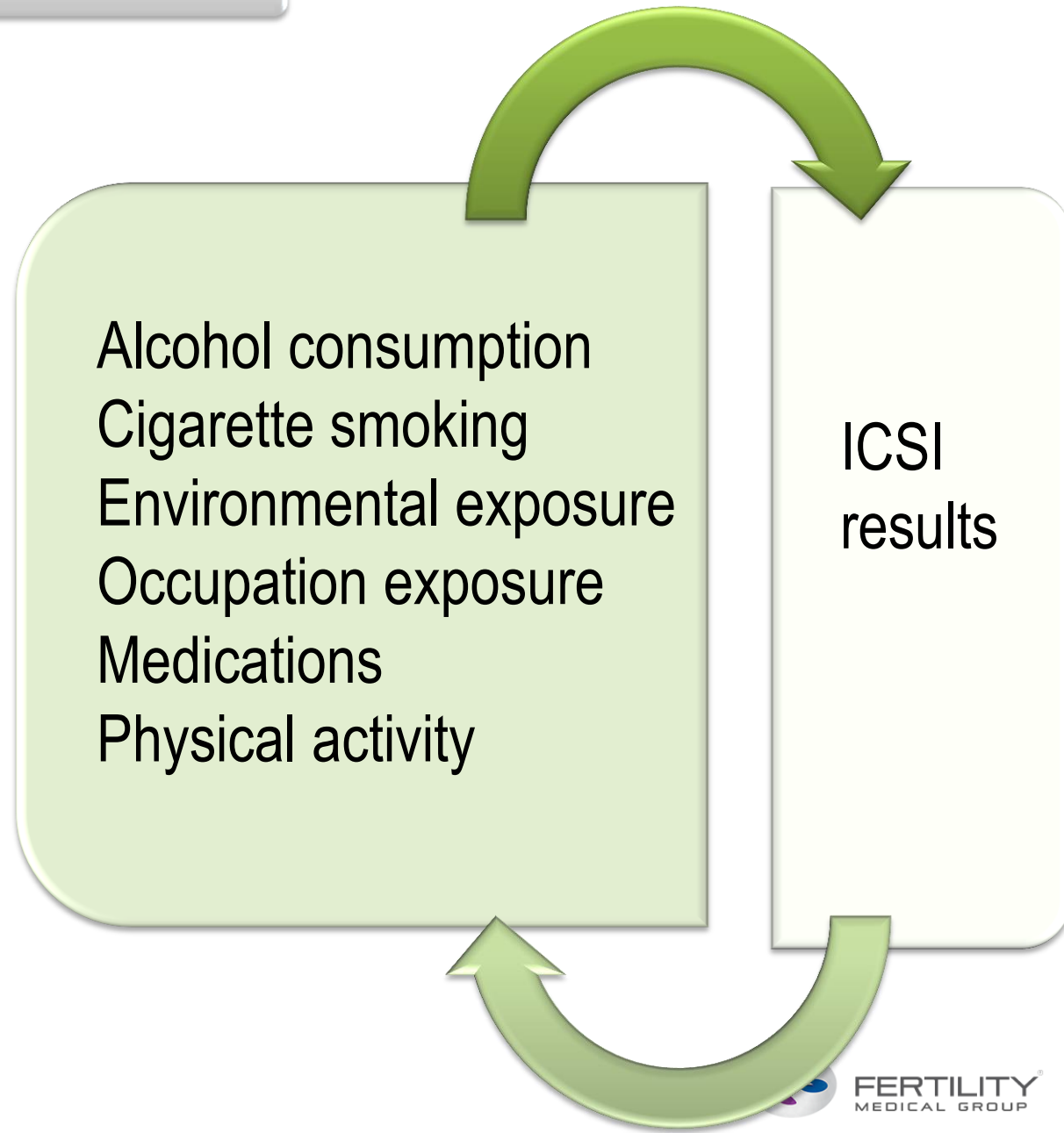
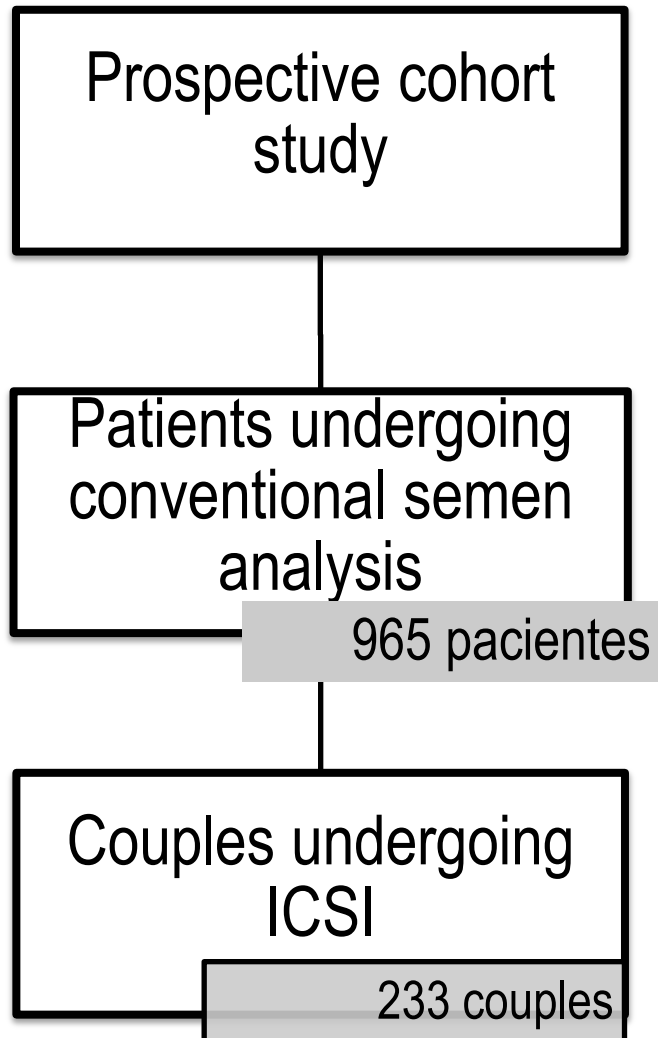
Regression analyses



# MATERIALS AND METHODS

## Regression analyses

- STUDY DESIGN



# MATERIALS AND METHODS

## INCLUSION CRITERIA

- ⑩ Isolated male infertility (oligozoospermia, asthenozoospermia, teratozoospermia)
- ⑩ First ICSI cycle
- ⑩ Female partner was  $\leq 36$  y-old

# MATERIALS AND METHODS

Evaluated semen  
parameters

Semen volume

Sperm count

Sperm motility

TMSC

Sperm morphology

SDF

# MATERIALS AND METHODS

Evaluated ICSI  
outcomes

```
graph LR; A[Evaluated ICSI outcomes] --- B[Fertilisation rate]; A --- C[Embryo quality on cleavage stage]; A --- D[Blastocyst formation rate]; A --- E[Implantation rate]; A --- F[Pregnancy rate]; A --- G[Miscarriage rate];
```

The diagram illustrates the evaluation of ICSI outcomes. A central box labeled 'Evaluated ICSI outcomes' is connected by lines to six separate boxes on the right, each representing a different outcome metric.

Fertilisation rate

Embryo quality on cleavage stage

Blastocyst formation rate




Implantation rate

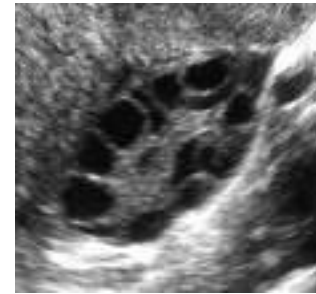
Pregnancy rate

Miscarriage rate

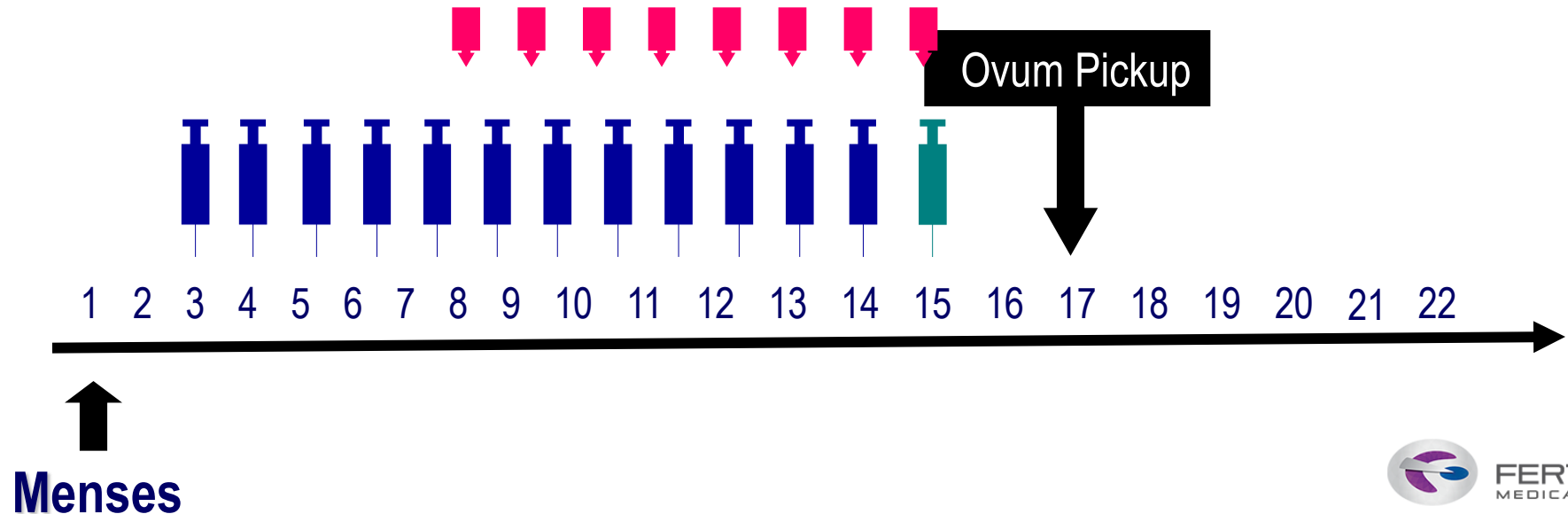
# MATERIALS AND METHODS

## Controlled Ovarian Stimulation

-  GnRH Antagonist
-  Recombinant FSH
-  Recombinant hCG



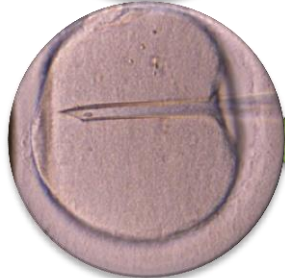
E2



# MATERIALS AND METHODS



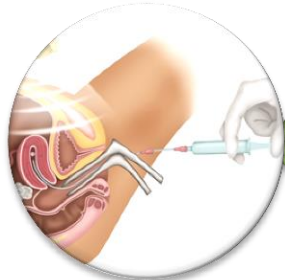
Incubation, denudation and nuclear maturation evaluation



ICSI - (Palermo et al., 1992)

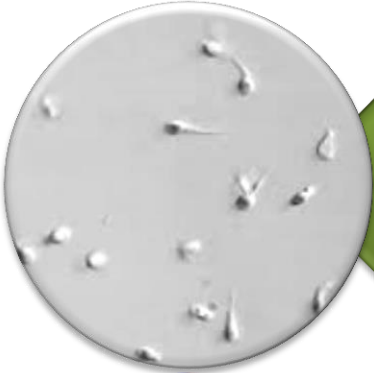


Embryo culture until day 5

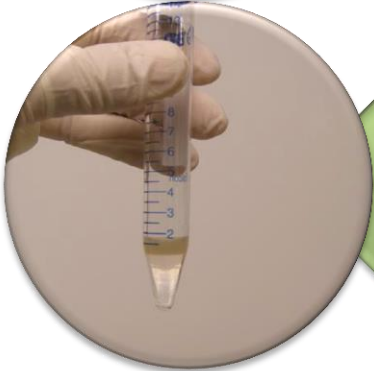


One or two blastocysts transferred

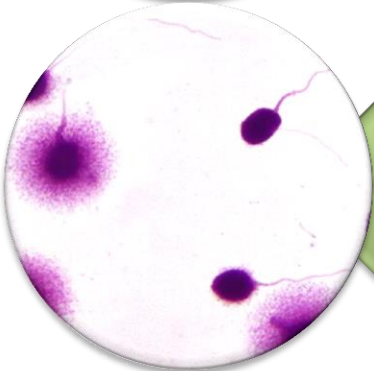
# MATERIALS AND METHODS



Semen samples were evaluated according to the threshold values established by the WHO in 2010



Sperm preparation: 2-layered density gradient centrifugation technique

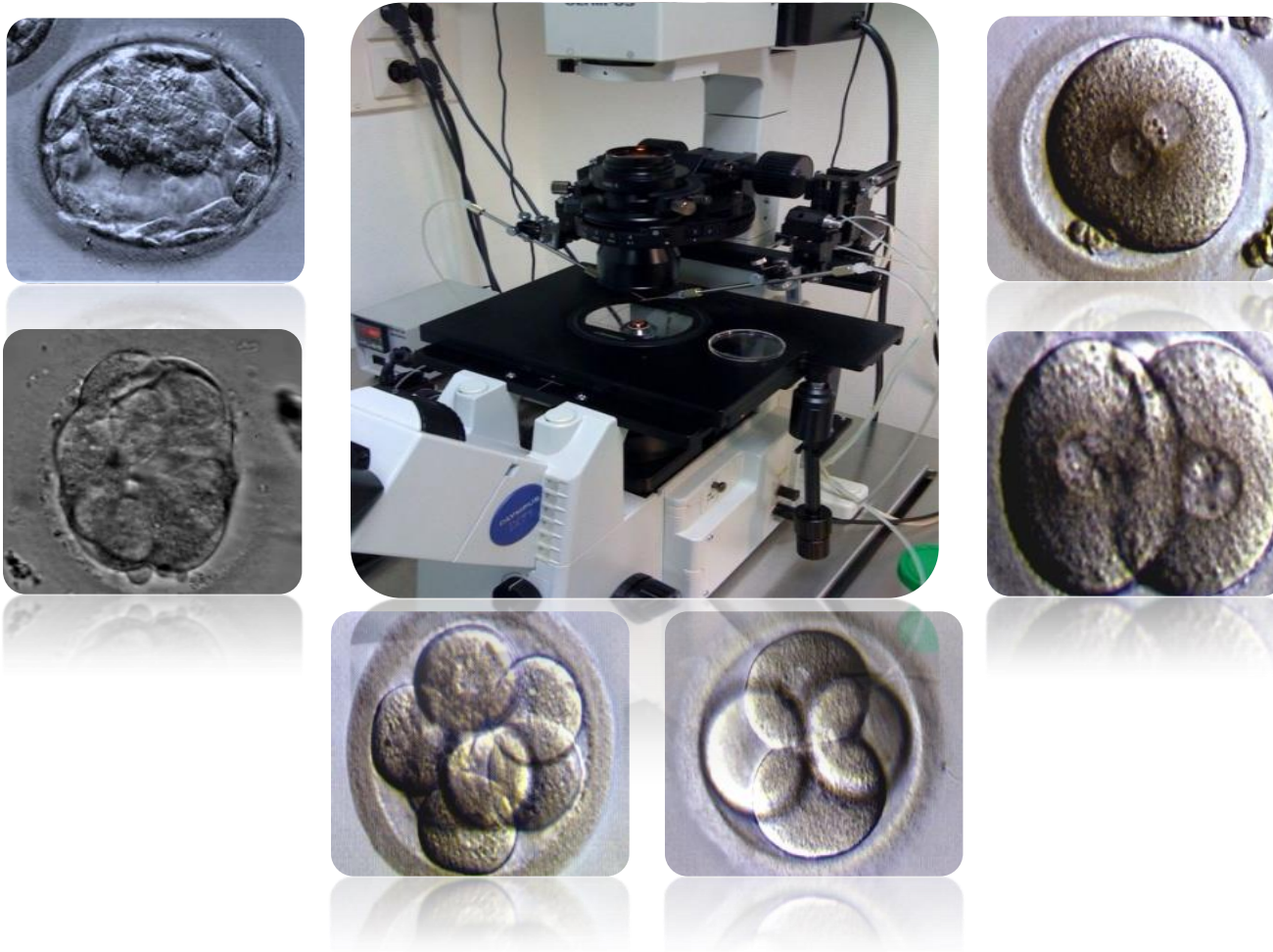


The sperm DNA fragmentation: Sperm chromatin dispersion test



# MATERIALS AND METHODS

- EMBRYO MORPHOLOGY AND EMBRYO TRANSFER



## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Paternal lifestyle habits questionnaire

# RESULTS

According with the World Health Organization

# RESULTS

## General seminal characteristics of men undergoing conventional semen analysis for infertility investigation (n = 965)

Variable	Reference values	Mean	Standard deviation
Male age (years)	-	38.1	6.4
Semen volume (mL)	$\geq 1.5$	3.1	1.7
Sperm count ( $\times 10^6/\text{mL}$ )	$\geq 15$	60.6	50.6
Total sperm count ( $\times 10^6$ )	$\geq 39$	176.6	169.4
Total sperm motility (%)	$\geq 40$	57.1	18.8
Progressive sperm motility (%)	$\geq 32$	49.1	18.8
Rapid sperm motility (%)	-	8.1	5.3
Total motile sperm count ( $\times 10^6$ )	-	97.6	101.2
Sperm normal morphology (%)	$\geq 4$	1.3	1.3
Sperm DNA fragmentation (%)	$\leq 15$	17.8	9.6

# RESULTS

Linear regression analyses' results for the influence of paternal lifestyle factors on semen quality (n=965)

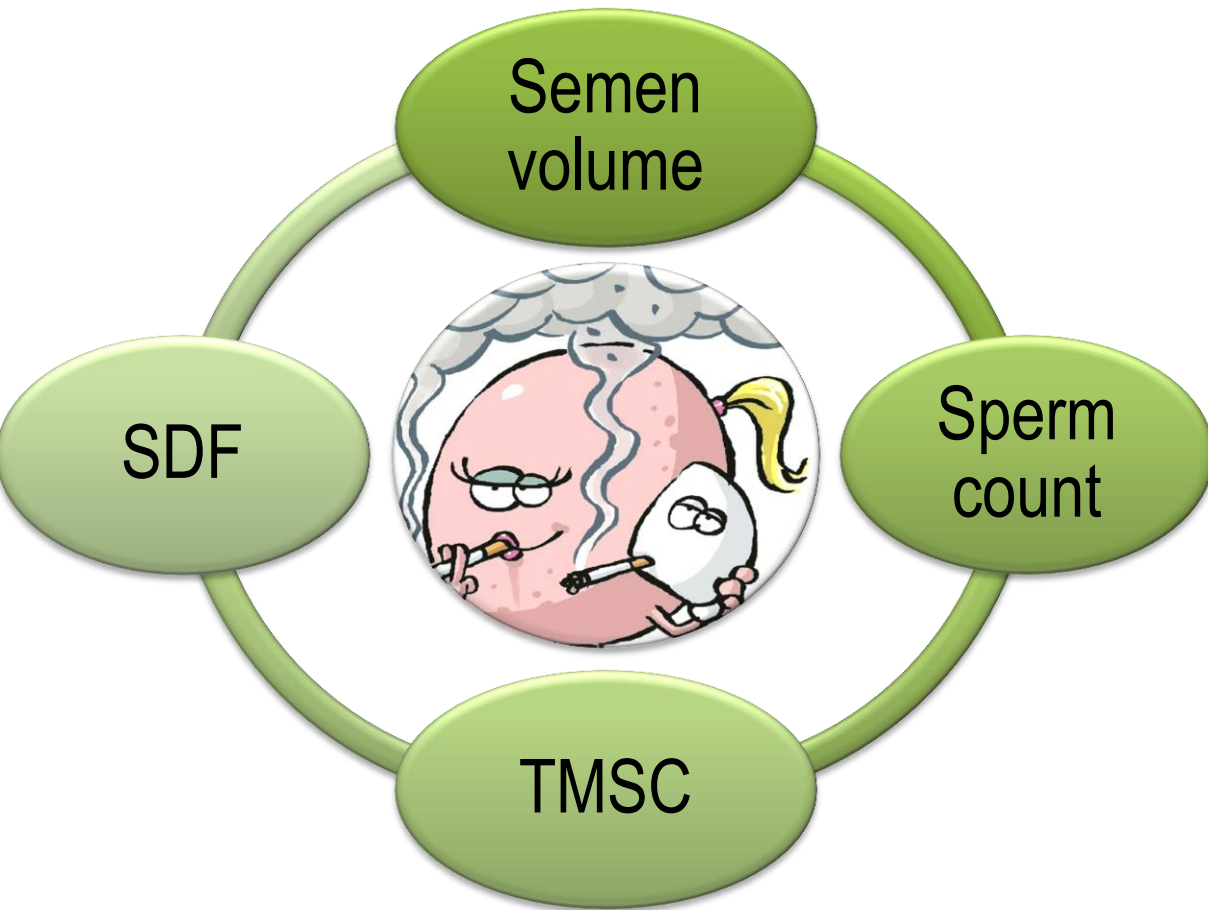
	Cigarette smoking		Alcohol consumption	
	B	p	B	p
<b>Semen volume</b>	-0.417	0.047	-0.1363	0.592
<b>Sperm count/mL</b>	-7.363	0.014	-12.527	0.040
<b>Total sperm count</b>	-4.43	0.023	-34.91	0.156
<b>Total sperm motility</b>	2.316	0.347	0.342	0.895
<b>Progressive sperm motility</b>	-0.369	0.887	2.547	0.240
<b>TMSC</b>	- 1.38	0.045	-16.33	0.278
<b>Sperm morphology</b>	-0.0563	0.779	0.3751	0.180
<b>SDF</b>	0.014	0.033	5.833	0.002

## RESULTS

Linear regression analyses' results for the association between paternal lifestyle factors and ICSI outcomes (n=233)

	Cigarette smoking		Alcohol consumption	
	B	p	B	p
<b>Fertilisation rate</b>	-1.349	0.039	-3.617	0.041
<b>High-quality embryos (day 3)</b>	4.383	0.450	9.559	0.166
<b>Blastocyst formation rate</b>	-14.244	0.025	-34.801	0.042
<b>Implantation rate</b>	5.384	0.451	-0.770	0.190

# DISCUSSION



## Previous studies

- Smoking is associated with a reduction of nearly 20% in sperm count



# DISCUSSION

available at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)  
journal homepage: [www.europeanurology.com](http://www.europeanurology.com)



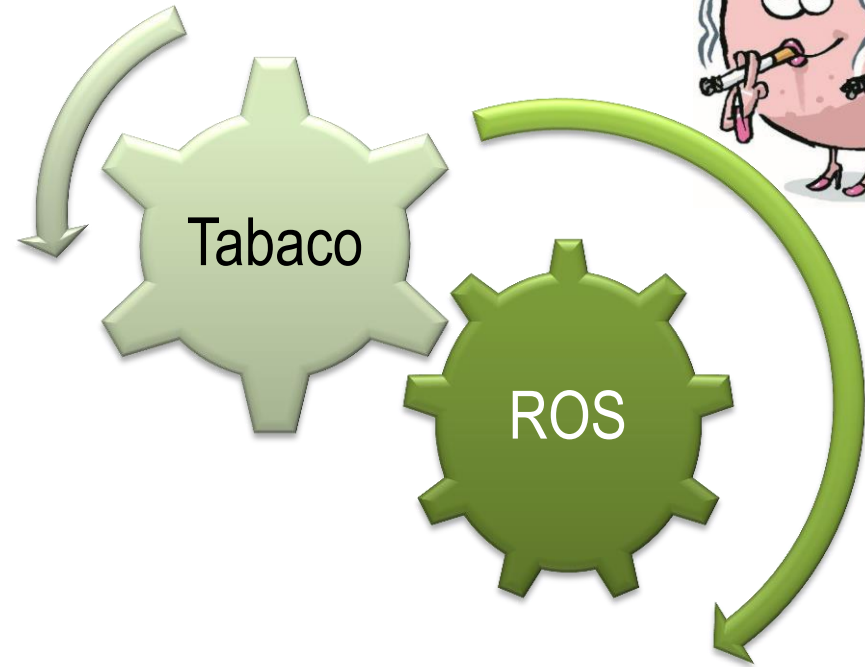
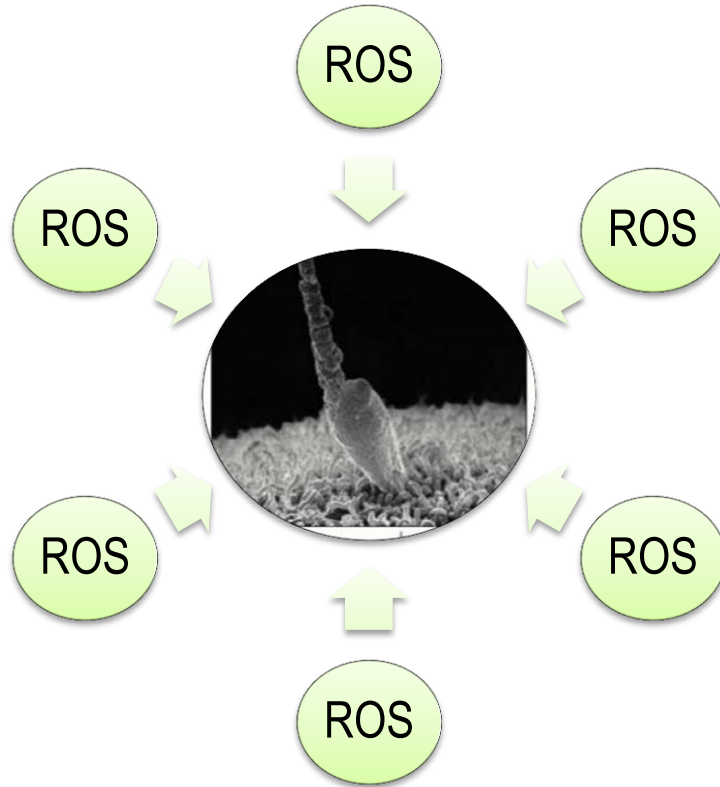
Platinum Priority – Review – Andrology  
*Editorial by XXX on pp. x–y of this issue*

## **Cigarette Smoking and Semen Quality: A New Meta-analysis Examining the Effect of the 2010 World Health Organization Laboratory Methods for the Examination of Human Semen**

Reecha Sharma<sup>a</sup>, Avi Harlev<sup>b,c</sup>, Ashok Agarwal<sup>c,\*</sup>, Sandro C. Esteves<sup>d</sup>

- ✓ Smoking reduces sperm count and motility, in a dose-dependent manner
- ✓ In our study we failed to determine a dose–response relationship between cigarette smoking and semen quality

# DISCUSSION



Excessive  
ROS

Increased  
antioxidant  
capacity

Aerobic injury  
of seminal  
plasma

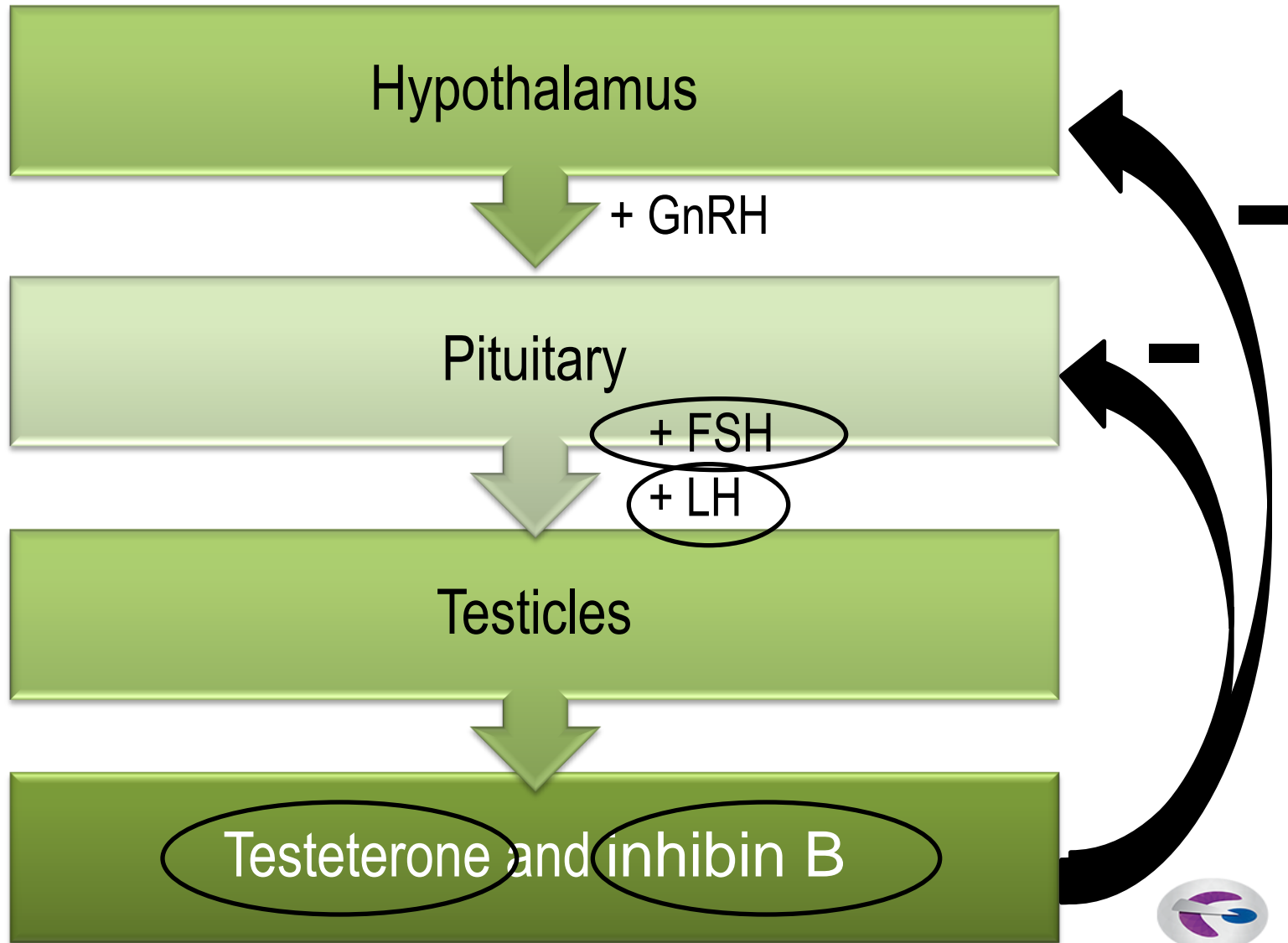
Oxidative  
stress

Sperm DNA  
damage

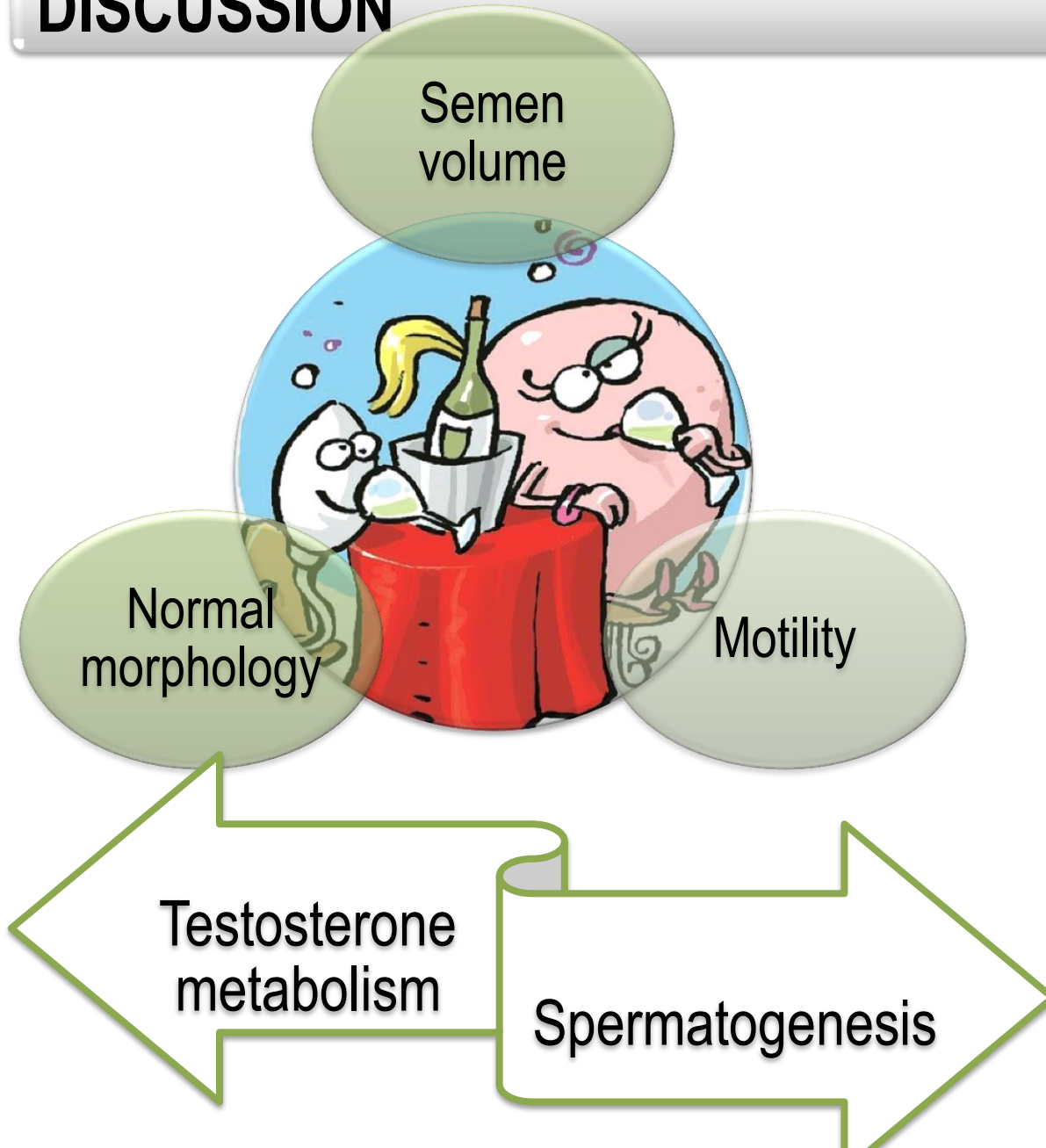


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# DISCUSSION



# DISCUSSION



Free  
testosterone  
Free estradiol



Spermatogenesis  
arrest



Sertoli-cell-only  
syndrome

# DISCUSSION

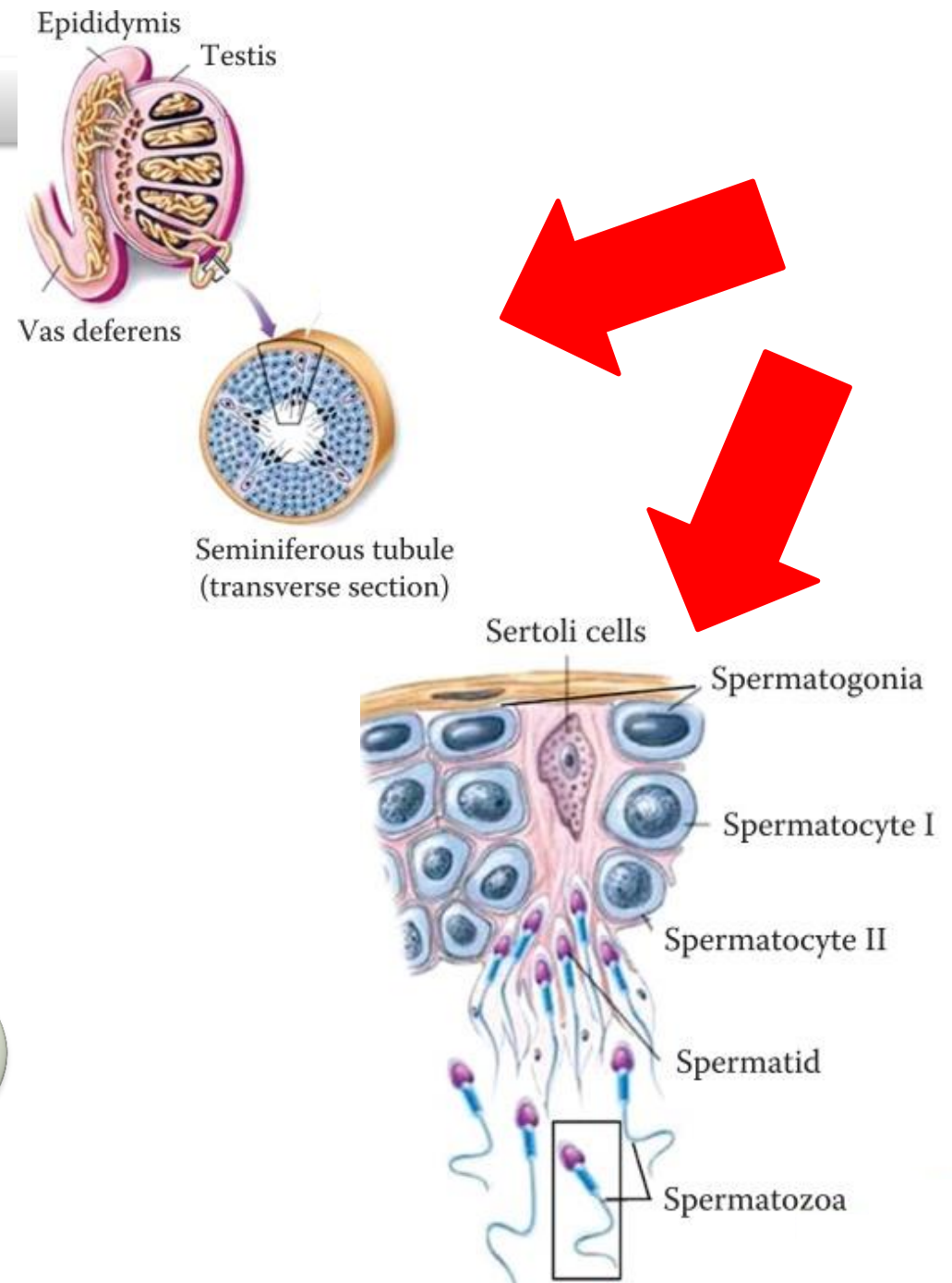
## ICSI outcomes



Cigarette  
smoking



Alcohol  
consumption



## CONCLUSION

Smoking and alcohol drinking habits seem to reduce semen quality, fertilization and blastocyst formation rates. Thus, it would be wise to recommend male partners to reconsider their lifestyle during *in vitro* reproduction treatments





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