



When you read up about your physical condition, you take an important tool into your own hands. The more you know about your physical condition, and the more positive steps you take, the better your chance for positive outcomes and treatment success.

### **Health Topic: Infertility**

Infertility is defined as the inability to establish a pregnancy after having unprotected intercourse for one year on a regular basis. Infertility can be either primary; having never been pregnant or secondary; the inability to conceive after having been pregnant previously. There is a 25 percent chance of conceiving pregnancy per menstrual cycle. Fifty percent of couples will conceive within six months and eighty five percent of couples will conceive within a year's time. Male factor infertility accounts for 20 to 30 percent of cases. A combination of male and female factors account for an additional 20 percent of cases.

Many things can affect the ability of a couple to conceive. Some of these factors may include but not be limit to age of the partners, overall health, past surgeries, substance abuse, medications, and pesticide exposure.

Initial evaluation of a man includes a thorough history and physical examination. The physician may request that you get some laboratory studies to help evaluate your particular circumstance.