



June 12, 2007

WHAT'S NEW

Treat infertility at home with new conception kit

By Barb Berggoetz

barb.berggoetz@indystar.com

June 12, 2007

Infertile couples now have a new, less-expensive fertility treatment option designed as an at-home conception kit.

Conceivex Conception Kit, the only at-home treatment approved by the Federal Drug Administration, was invented by Michigan entrepreneur Michael La Vean.

The \$300 kit is intended for couples having trouble conceiving because the male's sperm count is low, the woman's cervix is tilted or she has conditions, such as a chronic yeast infection, that make conception difficult, said La Vean.

This is how the method works: Couples have sex, with the man using a "semen collector," a type of a condom that won't harm the sperm.

They then put the semen into a small, flexible "conception cap" that the woman places on her cervix for four to six hours while she returns to normal activities. Doing so allows the sperm easier access to the uterus and the woman's eggs.

The FDA approved the kit, which includes three treatments, in late March. It needs to be obtained through a prescription and is available at some Meijer stores.

Couples also can visit www.conceptionkit.com to order kits after filling out a questionnaire reviewed by a doctor.

In a six-month clinical trial done by La Vean involving 33 women, 24 percent of them became pregnant after using the method.

"We were really pleased with the results, since every single woman had failed treatments," he said.

The FDA and epidemiologists estimate that the successful pregnancy rate actually will be 40 to 45 percent after six months, when women who have not had failed treatments are included.

La Vean said the method is intended as a first step for couples to take before trying other methods like in-vitro fertilization, which can cost anywhere from \$12,000 to \$18,000.

About 40 percent of infertility cases come from low sperm counts and reduced sperm motility.