

PIVET Medical Centre, Perth, Australia 2015

I stayed at PIVET Medical Centre from April until July 2015, as a part of my expert training program (EXPU). The Medical Director at PIVET Dr. John Yovich, who made the first IVF baby in Australia back in 1982, is one of the last practicing IVF pioneers. Be on running a private IVF clinic, he is also Clinical Professor at School of Biomedical Sciences, Curtin University, and has published in many areas of fertility management during a long career. PIVET was the first IVF clinic in Australia and has the best result of frozen thawed embryo transfer (FET) treatment.

I experienced many differences between the management of IVF at PIVET and a public clinic in Denmark. Firstly, the mean age of patients at PIVET was higher due to Australian legislation. Secondly, all patients started with a natural monitored cycle. Another major difference was the intense monitoring during all treatments. In Denmark, Ultra Sound examination is the main tool used to monitor the treatment and only few blood samples are taken. At PIVET the intensive monitoring even continues after a positive pregnancy test and if low hormone levels are recognised extra hormone is given. Under oocyte retrievals and even during some embryo transfers patients were sedated. During the stay, all clinical aspect of general fertility treatment and FET was studied and it was a great privilege working with Dr. Yovich and learn from his many years of experience in all aspect of infertility treatment. During my stay I also visit a smaller Fertility Clinic in Cairns, which is also managed by Dr. Yovich.

PIVET has a database containing results of more than 17 000 cycles including the first natural tracking cycle, IVF, FET and intrauterine insemination treatments. All hormone analysis, patients' demographics, embryo quality, Ultra Sound results and pregnancy outcomes are available. This unique database can be the foundation of important retrospective studies regarding different aspect of fertility treatment and under the stay; at least three retrospective studies were started.

It has been a great experience to observe another management of IVF treatments with focus on hormone levels instead of Ultra Sound scans, which is the Danish approach. I felt very welcome as their Danish fellow and it was very valuable to have a change to reflect upon the differences between a Danish public fertility clinic and an Australian private fertility clinic.

I thanks the NFOG fund supporting my observational stay at PIVET Medical Centre.

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