Reply: The fimbria/ovarian surface junction

Sir,

A body of data has accumulated in recent years that indicates that high-grade serous carcinomas have multiple origins, and this concept is still evolving. A broader consideration of these origins may require assessment of whether ovarian surface epithelium (OSE) and fimbrial epithelium (FE) are interconvertible. If they are, it may not be practical to distinguish between them. They may be defined primarily by location and distinctions may be quite labile and environment specific.

The Letter by Dietl et al. comments on our observations (Wright et al., 2011a) that FE may replace OSE after removal of the surface epithelium by epitheliectomy (OSEx), and we would like to add observations from a companion manuscript (Wright et al., 2011b) that may be complementary to FE transfer to the ovary: OSE cells may be displaced by ovulation and transferred to the fimbria.

Critical experiments are needed to determine whether, and to what extent, the transfer of cells from each population occurs, and how they may be distinguished from each other. They may be defined primarily by location and distinctions may be quite labile and environment specific.

The effect of needle diameter on duration of oocyte collection procedure

Sir,

I read the article by Wikland et al. (2011) with great interest. I am intrigued by the authors’ finding of similar collection times with the new reduced diameter needle. Poiseuille’s law states that at a constant driving pressure the flow rate of liquid through a capillary tube is directly proportional to the fourth power of the radius of the tube and inversely proportional to the length and viscosity of the tube (Steiner, 2011). Accordingly, I would expect the collection time to be different between two needles with inner diameters differing by 40%.

References


Reply: The effect of needle diameter on duration of oocyte collection procedure

Sir,

We thank Dr Steiner for his interest in our study (Wikland et al., 2011) and the comment. The question about collection time with reference to Poiseuille’s law is relevant. According to this law one would expect a longer collection time for the thinner needle.
However, this law requires that all variables are kept constant during the whole procedure, which is not true in the clinical situation of an oocyte collection. One factor that we believe could be of importance for not prolonging the oocyte pick-up time (OPU time) is that a very short proportion of the needle (50 mm) has been reduced. Since the volumetric flow rate is a function of the entire system including the non-reduced part of the needle and the aspiration tubing which makes up a great deal of the flow resistance which determines the OPU time. Furthermore, one has to remember that the study was not designed with OPU time as a primary end-point. The primary end-point was pain relief. As a secondary end-point, OPU time, defined as the time from the first follicle was punctured until the last follicle had been aspirated and the needle withdrawn, was not different between the needles tested. A larger study with OPU time as primary end-point might have given a different result but because of the needle design we doubt that such a study would give results that are clinically relevant.

Reference


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