

A complete view of endometrial health

Igenomix[®]

Summary

ERA – Endometrial Receptivity Analysis - 4

Rationale - 5

Indications for ERA - 7

Methodology - 8

Report and interpretation of the results - 10

Decision Tree - 14

References - 15

EMMA – Endometrial Microbiome Metagenomic Analysis - 17

Rationale - 18

Indications for EMMA - 19

Methodology - 20

Report and interpretation of the results - 21

Decision Tree - 23

Benefits of NGS microbiome vs microbial culture - 24

References - 25



Summary

ALICE – Analysis of Infectious Chronic Endometritis - 27

Rationale - 28

Indications for ALICE - 29

Methodology - 30

Report and interpretation of the results - 31

Decision Tree - 33

Benefits of NGS CE pathogen detection vs classical methods - 34

References - 35

Endometrial biopsy for ERA, EMMA, ALICE - 37

Endometrial biopsy - 38

Day of endometrial biopsy - 41

Logistics – 47

A complete view of endometrial health - 49



ERA[®]

Endometrial
Receptivity Analysis

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Rationale

The endometrial factor plays a key role in embryo implantation. In addition to evaluating malformations or anomalies in the uterine cavity, it also determines when the endometrium is receptive, i.e. the window of implantation. Recurrent implantation failure (RIF) patients may have a displaced window of implantation, leading to embryo transfer into a non-receptive endometrium (Ruiz-Alonso et al. Fertil Steril, 2013).

The endometrial gene expression signature allows evaluation of endometrial receptivity, identifying a personalized window of implantation for each patient. This analysis is carried out by a tool designed, developed and patented in 2009 (PCT/ES2009/000386) by Igenomix, after more than 10 years of research (Diaz-Gimeno et al. Fertil Steril, 2011; 2013).

ERA[®]

Endometrial
Receptivity Analysis

To identify the window of implantation in the endometrial cycle, enabling personalized embryo transfer (pET).

Research by Igenomix has demonstrated that synchronization between an implantation-ready embryo and a receptive endometrium increases the chances of success in an assisted reproductive treatment (Ruiz-Alonso et al. Fertil Steril, 2013; Ruiz-Alonso et al. Hum Reprod, 2014; Clemente-Ciscar et al. Hum Reprod, 2018). Other groups have also published similar results from their own patients after guided embryo transfer according to ERA results (Mahajan J Hum Reprod, 2015; Hashimoto et al. Reprod Med Biol, 2017; Findikli et al. Hum Reprod, 2018; Pasternak et al. Fertil Steril, 2018; Taguchi et al. Fertil Steril, 2018).

ERA (Endometrial Receptivity Analysis), determines the optimal time in the endometrial cycle to perform embryo transfer. Thus, ERA can increase the chances of pregnancy by synchronizing an implantation-ready embryo with a receptive endometrium.

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Indications for ERA

ERA is indicated for RIF patients, since they are at higher risk of having a displaced window of implantation (Ruiz-Alonso et al. Fertil Steril, 2013). Therefore, this analysis could be beneficial for patients with 2 previous failed cycles with their own oocytes or 1 previous failed cycle with ovum donation, in which good-quality embryos were transferred.

If your patient requires any intervention at the uterine level, the ERA test should be done after this procedure, in order to replicate the conditions under which embryo transfer will take place.

In the case of an atrophic (< 6 mm) or hypertrophic endometrium (> 12 mm), ERA can be performed as long as the endometrial appearance is consistent for all cycles for this patient.



Methodology

This test uses Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technology to analyze the expression of 248 genes related to endometrial receptivity status.

The results from this test are based on the expression analysis of these 248 genes with a computational predictor designed and developed by Igenomix. After sequencing the genetic material (RNA) from an endometrial biopsy, it is possible to evaluate if the endometrium is Receptive or Non-receptive at any specific time during the endometrial cycle. This result will be coupled to a recommendation for personalized embryo transfer according to each patient's specific endometrial profile. In 10% of cases, it may be necessary to validate the personalized window of implantation by performing a second endometrial biopsy on the specific day designated by the first ERA test.

ERA[®]

Endometrial
Receptivity Analysis

To enable reproducibility of results, the ERA test must be performed under identical conditions as the subsequent embryo transfer cycle (cycle type, treatment, method of administration...), and always during a hormone replacement therapy (HRT) or natural cycle. This test can not be performed in controlled ovarian stimulated cycles.

The first endometrial biopsy should be taken after 5 full days with progesterone administration (P+5) in an HRT cycle (120 hours with progesterone administration), or 7 days after the hCG triggering (hCG+7) in a natural cycle (168 hours after hCG triggering). If day-3 embryos are to be transferred, the biopsy should be performed at P+5 or hCG+7, since the ERA checks the endometrium at the moment of implantation. This way, if you have a receptive result at P+5, you will transfer a blastocyst at P+5 or a day-3 embryo two days earlier, i.e. at P+3.

Report and interpretation of the results

The ERA report will indicate the optimum time to perform personalized embryo transfer (pET), or when to perform a new ERA biopsy (as appropriate).

Interpretation of the results

Receptive: The gene expression profile is concordant with a receptive endometrium. The recommendation is to perform a blastocyst(s) transfer following the same protocol and timings utilized during the ERA test.

Early Receptive: The gene expression profile is concordant with an endometrium at the beginning of the receptive stage. The recommendation is to administer progesterone (HRT) or rest (natural cycle) for 12 hours more relative to when the biopsy was taken before performing the blastocyst(s) transfer.

Late Receptive: The gene expression profile is concordant with an endometrium at the end of the receptive stage. The recommendation is to administer progesterone (HRT) or rest (natural cycle) for 12 hours less relative to when the biopsy was taken before performing a blastocyst(s) transfer.

Pre-receptive: The gene expression profile is concordant with an endometrium at a pre-receptive stage. This could be due to a displacement of the window of implantation. In around 5% of cases (when this displacement implies 2 days) a new endometrial biopsy is required for validation.



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Endometrial
Receptivity Analysis

Post-receptive: The gene expression profile is concordant with an endometrium at a post-receptive stage. This could be due to a displacement of the window of implantation. To confirm this result, the analysis of a second biopsy on the recommended day is needed.

Proliferative: The gene expression profile is concordant with an endometrium at a proliferative stage. It is recommended to contact the ERA laboratory to evaluate the protocol in which the endometrial biopsy was performed.

* In approximately 5% of samples received, a result cannot be obtained. This is due to a non-informative profile or to the low quantity/quality of the genetic material extracted.

* Following ERA report recommendations does not guarantee implantation. Failed implantation may be caused by other factors.

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Report

The aim of this test is to provide physicians with an objective molecular diagnosis of the patient's endometrial reproductive health.

This test must be prescribed and interpreted by the referring physician.



ERA (ENDOMETRIAL RECEPTIVITY ANALYSIS)

Patient information	Sample information	Clinic information
Unique pat. id.:	Date received:	Clinic:
Sample type:	Report Date:	Clinician: Dr.
Patient name:	First Intake of P4:	No. biopsy:
Patient DOB:	Date of biopsy:	
	Cycle type:	

TEST RESULTS:

PRE-RECEPTIVE

Recommendation: The personalized embryo transfer (pET) of a blastocyst/s should be performed with 146 ± 3 hours of progesterone administration (1 day later than the time at which this endometrial biopsy was performed). A new endometrial biopsy is not required. **



INTERPRETATION OF YOUR RESULT:

According to our internal data, 89% of women with similar endometrial profile reached receptivity with 1 more day of progesterone administration (confidence interval of 95% [86%-91%]), so in these cases new endometrial biopsy is not needed. Therefore, blastocyst/s transfer is recommended with 146 ± 3 hours of progesterone administration.

For a day-3 embryo/s, the transfer should be performed two days earlier than indicated in the recommendation for blastocyst transfer above.

** This recommendation is only applicable to the same type of cycle treatment as the one used for this endometrial biopsy and if the endogenous progesterone measured prior to the first progesterone intake is 10ng/ml.

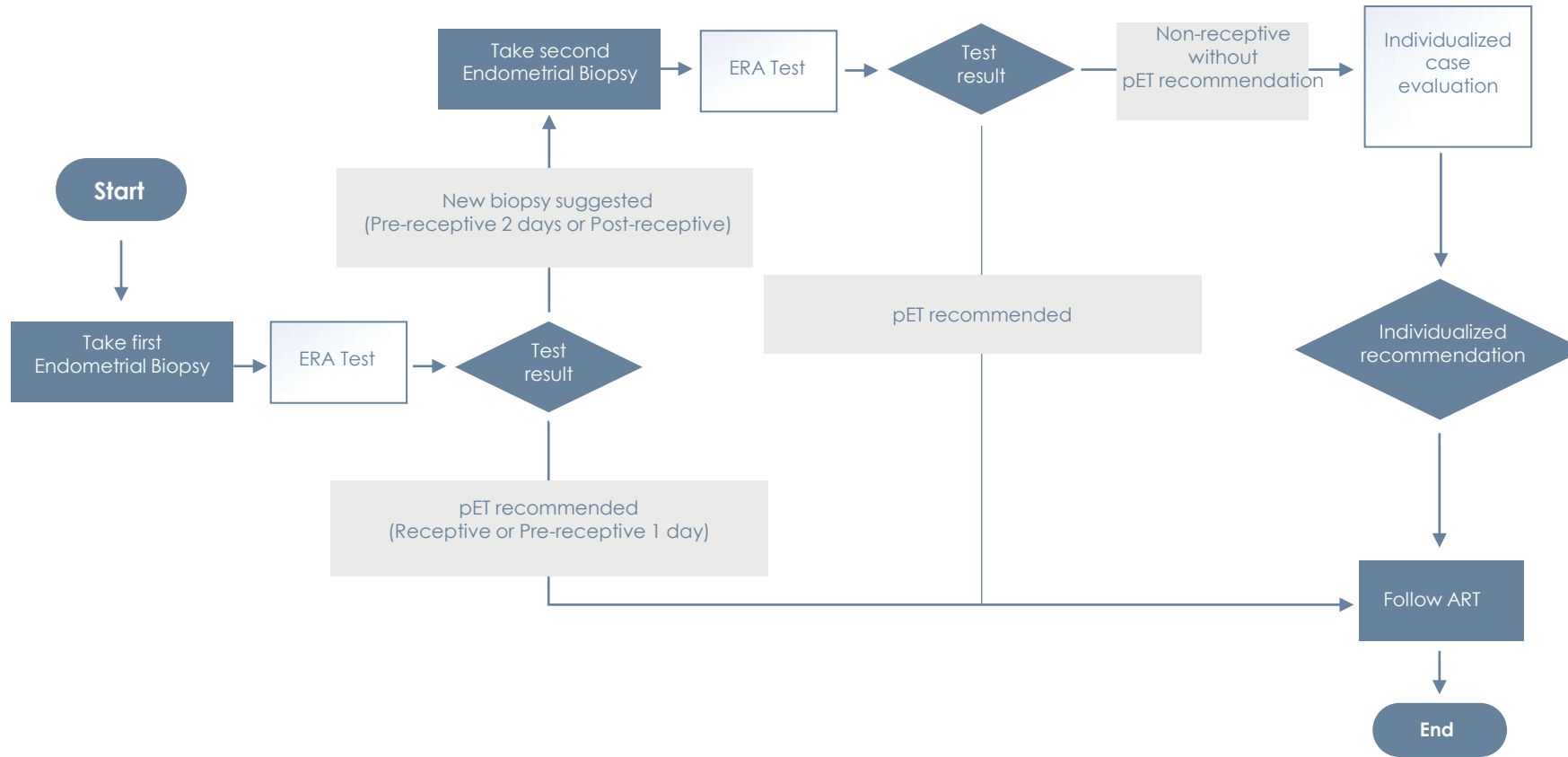
TEST DESCRIPTION:

ERA (Endometrial Receptivity Analysis) is a molecular tool used to determine if the endometrium (the mucous membrane lining the womb) exhibits a receptive profile after 5 days of progesterone exposure, the time at which the endometrium is typically ready for embryo implantation. This molecular diagnosis method is based on measuring the gene expression profile of endometrial tissue. Therefore, ERA helps to determine when the endometrium presents the ideal condition for embryo implantation, increasing the possibility of a successful in vitro fertilization treatment.

COMMENTS:

None

ERA Decision tree



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ERA[®]

Endometrial
Receptivity Analysis

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EMMA

Endometrial Microbiome
Metagenomic Analysis

Rationale

The Human Microbiome Project (HMP) has highlighted **the importance of different microorganisms and their genomes in human health and disease** (Human Microbiome Project Consortium, 2012).

Identification of dysbiotic or pathogenic microbiomes may be key to improving clinical outcomes in various areas of medicine.

Recent research has **identified the existence of an endometrial microbiome**, and has demonstrated that dysbiosis of the uterine cavity is associated with poor reproductive outcomes in assisted reproductive treatment patients. This suggests that pathogenic variations of endometrial Lactobacilli levels could play a role in infertility (Moreno et al. Am J Obstet Gynecol, 2016).

EMMA

Endometrial Microbiome
Metagenomic Analysis

EMMA (Endometrial Microbiome Metagenomic Analysis) can determine if the uterine microbial environment is optimal for embryo implantation.

EMMA provides a complete view of the endometrial bacterial composition, including pathogens causing chronic endometritis (CE) that can be specifically investigated in ALICE.

Indications for EMMA

The impact of the endometrial microbiome in patients with Repeated Implantation Failure (RIF) has been demonstrated (Moreno et al. Am J Obstet Gynecol, 2016). However, **EMMA can be beneficial for any patient wishing to conceive**, by assessing the microbiological environment that the embryo will encounter at implantation.

EMMA

Endometrial Microbiome
Metagenomic Analysis

Methodology

This test uses the latest Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technology to provide microbiome information for endometrial tissue by analyzing the **complete endometrial microbiome profile**. The technology is based on DNA extraction followed by amplification and barcoded sequencing of the bacterial 16S ribosomal RNA gene.

This bacterial gene, conserved in all bacteria, presents nine variable regions with species-specific DNA sequences. This enables the taxonomic assignment and relative quantification of each bacteria present in a sample.

A single endometrial sample contains both endometrial and bacterial cells. These can be analyzed using deep sequencing to predict both endometrial receptivity and the endometrial microbiome. EMMA thus provides a microbiological view of the endometrium, to improve clinical management of patients.



EMMA

Endometrial Microbiome
Metagenomic Analysis

Report and interpretation of the results

The EMMA report will provide information about the overall microbial health of the uterine cavity. This includes:

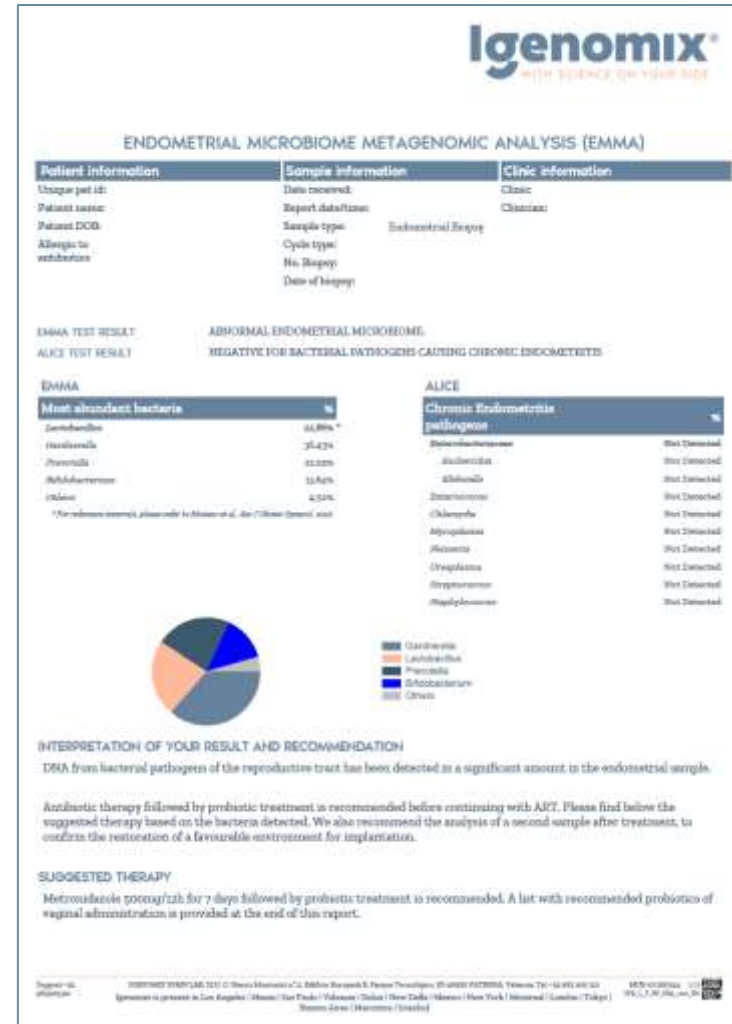
- Percentage of Lactobacilli in the endometrial sample.
- Percentages of bacteria detected in the endometrial sample (for those present in a representative amount).
- Classification of the endometrial microbiota profile: normal (high percentage of *Lactobacillus*), abnormal (significant presence of pathogenic or dysbiotic bacteria), dysbiotic (low percentage of *Lactobacillus*) or ultralow biomass (the amount of endometrial flora is extremely low)
- Suggested probiotic/antibiotic therapy. Recommendations for antibiotic therapy will always be guided by an expert clinical microbiologist, who will counsel the doctor on an individual basis.
- ALICE test results: because EMMA includes ALICE, the results of CE diagnosis and abundance of CE-causing bacteria are also shown in the EMMA report.

EMMA

Endometrial Microbiome
Metagenomic Analysis

Report

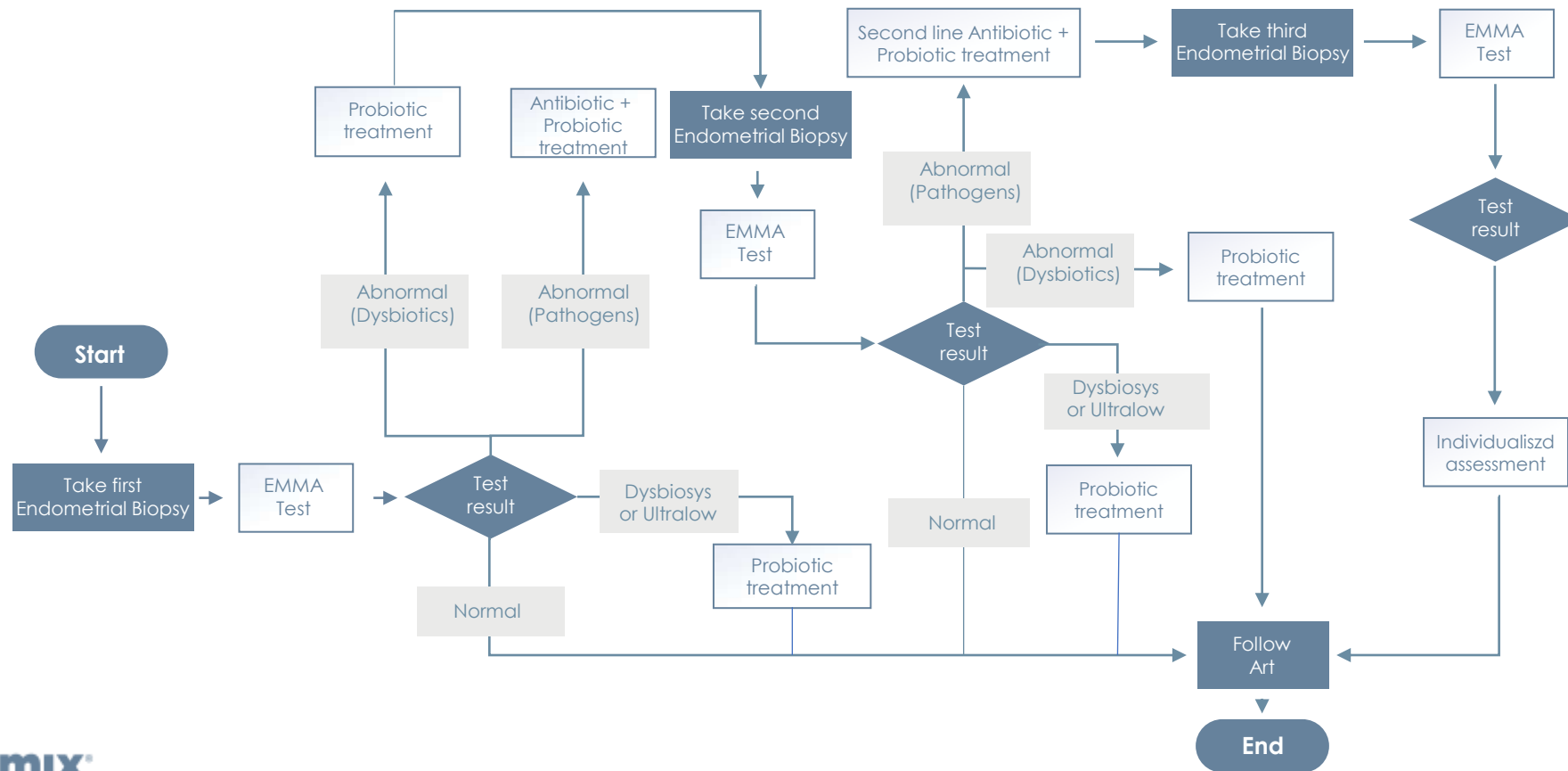
Recommendations for antimicrobial therapy will always be guided by an expert clinical microbiologist, who will counsel the doctor on an individual basis.



EMMA

Endometrial Microbiome
Metagenomic Analysis

EMMA Decision tree



Benefits of NGS microbiome vs microbial culture

Microbial culture is the current gold-standard method for assessment of bacterial populations and infection. However, it has been demonstrated that, depending on location, between 20% and 60% of bacteria cannot be cultured. Molecular assessment of the microbiome using NGS allows detection of culturable and non-culturable bacteria.

References

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EMMA

Endometrial Microbiome
Metagenomic Analysis

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ALICE

Analysis of Infectious
Chronic Endometritis

ALICE

Analysis of Infectious
Chronic Endometritis

Rationale

The best example of pathology caused by an altered endometrial microbiota is chronic endometritis (CE). CE is a persistent inflammation of the endometrial lining, caused by infection of the uterine cavity, mainly by bacterial pathogens. Because it is usually asymptomatic and current classical diagnosis methods (histology, hysteroscopy and microbial culture) are unsatisfactory, CE is often overlooked, although it affects approximately 30% of infertile women, and prevalence in patients with RIF and Recurrent Pregnancy Loss (RPL) may reach 60%.

A recent study carried out by Igenomix has demonstrated that molecular assessment of CE is a reliable diagnostic method compared to classical methods (Moreno et al. Am J Obstet Gynecol, 2018). This new approach should improve detection of this often-undiagnosed endometrial pathology, by identifying specific microorganisms and enabling guided, personalized treatment.

ALICE

Analysis of Infectious
Chronic Endometritis

ALICE (Analysis of Infectious Chronic Endometritis), detects the most frequent bacteria that cause chronic endometritis. This expands the service offered by Igenomix, to evaluate the endometrium at the microbiological level, with the aim of improving the clinical management of patients with this silent disease.

Indications for ALICE

ALICE can be beneficial for any patient wishing to conceive, by assessing the microbiological environment that the embryo will encounter at implantation. ALICE may also be beneficial for patients with a history of RPL and/or RIF, because CE has been linked to these events.

ALICE

Analysis of Infectious
Chronic Endometritis

Methodology

ALICE uses the latest NGS technology to provide information about the abundance in an endometrial sample of the specific bacteria that cause CE.

The technology is based on DNA extraction followed by amplification and barcoded sequencing of the bacterial 16S ribosomal RNA gene from the most frequently CE causing bacteria.

A single biopsy contains both endometrial and bacterial cells. ALICE test can differentiate the bacterial genes from human genes present in the DNA extracted from the sample. 16S rRNA gene is conserved in all bacteria and presents nine variable regions with species-specific DNA sequences. This **enables the taxonomic assignment and relative quantification of CE bacteria present in a sample.**

ALICE

Analysis of Infectious
Chronic Endometritis

Report and interpretation of the results

The ALICE report will focus on the detection and abundance of those specific bacteria that cause CE.

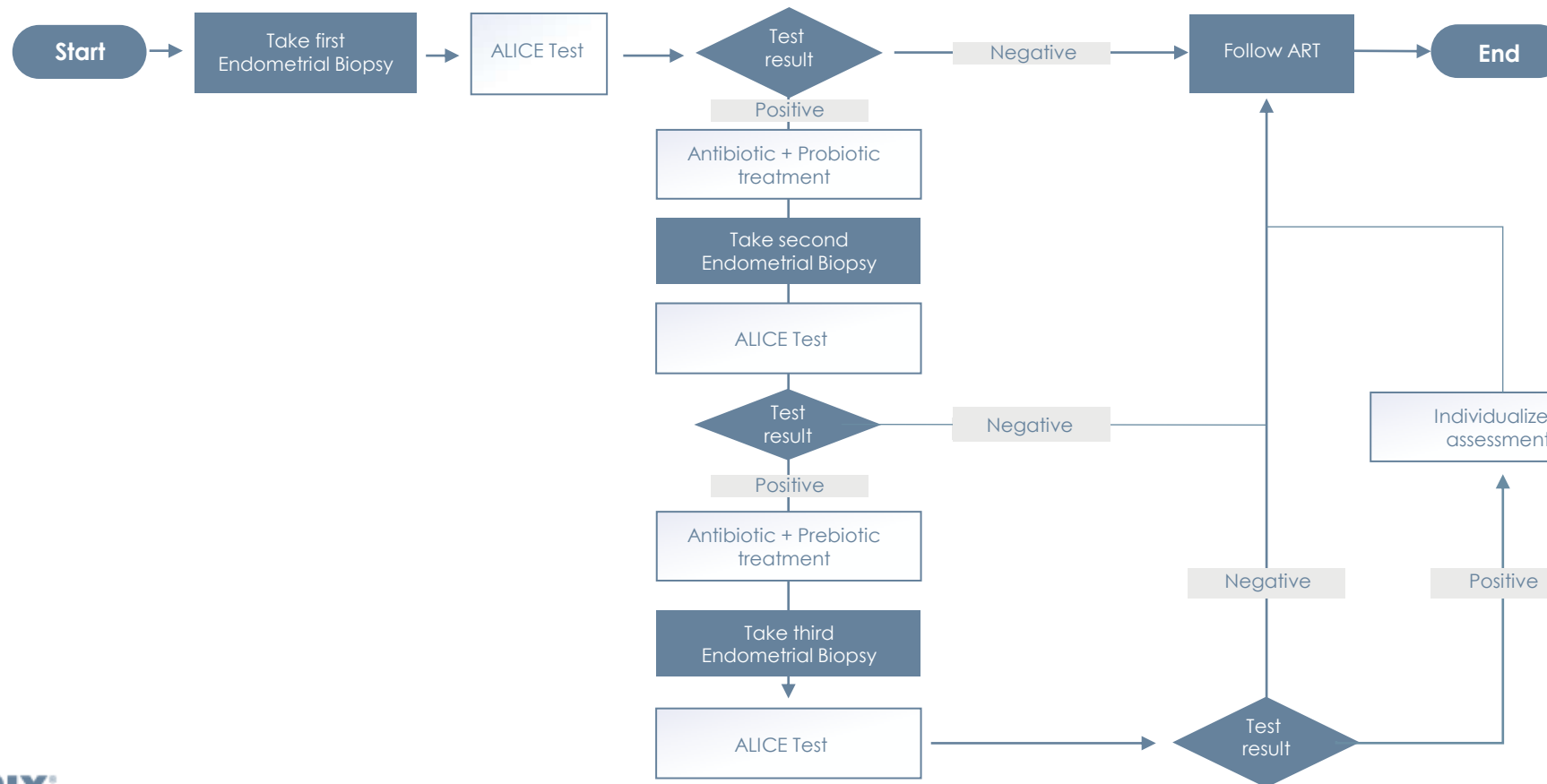
These bacteria are: *Enterococcus* spp., Enterobacteriaceae (*Escherichia* and *Klebsiella*), *Streptococcus* spp., *Staphylococcus* spp., *Mycoplasma* spp, and *Ureaplasma* spp. In addition, other pathogens associated with sexually transmitted infections (STI), such as *Chlamydia* and *Neisseria* spp. will be reported.

The report will recommend individualized treatment with the appropriate antibiotics and probiotics.

ALICE

Analysis of Infectious
Chronic Endometritis

Alice Decision tree



ALICE

Analysis of Infectious
Chronic Endometritis

Benefits of NGS CE pathogen detection vs classical methods

Current diagnosis of CE is traditionally based on histology, hysteroscopy and/or microbial culture.

However, these three classical methods provide inconclusive or misleading results in 80% of cases. While histology usually underdiagnoses CE, hysteroscopy usually overdiagnoses the disease. These methods cannot accurately identify the pathogens causing the disease, and broad-spectrum antibiotics are often prescribed. Microbial culture is able to isolate the causative pathogen; however, between 20% and 60% of bacteria cannot be cultured in standard laboratory conditions or are not usually assessed in clinical practice.

Molecular microbiology presents equivalent results to the combined results obtained by using histology, hysteroscopy and microbial culture (Moreno et al. Am J Obstet Gynecol, 2018).

ALICE

Analysis of Infectious
Chronic Endometritis

References

Moreno I, Cicinelli E, Garcia-Grau I, Gonzalez M, Bau D, Vilella F, De Ziegler D, Resta L, Valbuena D, Simon C. The diagnosis of chronic endometritis in infertile asymptomatic women: a comparative study of histology, microbial cultures, hysteroscopy, and molecular microbiology. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2018; 218(6):602.e1-602.e16

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ALICE

Analysis of Infectious
Chronic Endometritis

References

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Endometrial Biopsy

Endometrial Biopsy

A single endometrial biopsy is sufficient for an individual test or for EndomeTRIO (ERA, EMMA, and ALICE).

Igenomix will supply a cryotube for each biopsy. The cryotube contains 1.5 ml of a transparent solution to preserve the genetic material. The cryotube must be labelled with the date of the biopsy, initials of the patient or patient name (according to each country) and a second patient identifier (date of birth or medical record number).

After the biopsy has been performed, the sample should be transferred immediately to the supplied cryotube and shaken vigorously for a few seconds. The pipelle catheter used to collect the sample must be discarded as a residue of medical services, through waste managers authorized to treat it, always in compliance with current legal regulations.

Endometrial Biopsy

The endometrial biopsy must be taken from the uterine fundus using a pipelle catheter (Genetics, Hamont Achel, Belgium) or similar. When taking the endometrial biopsy it is very important to take the correct quantity of tissue, around 70 mg, which corresponds to tissue with sides of approximately 7 mm. Ensure that the sample is made up of endometrial tissue, not solely blood or mucus; excessive amounts of blood or mucus should also be avoided. It is important not to exceed the white line marked on the cryotube, in order to avoid possible degradation of the genetic material. In the case that an EMMA or ALICE tests are requested (alone or coupled with ERA test) should be avoided the use of prophylactic antibiotic during the procedure.



Endometrial Biopsy

Ensure that the cryotube actually contains endometrial tissue before sending it.

The cryotube containing the sample should be transferred to a refrigerator (4-8°C/39-46°F) straightaway, and should be stored there for at least 4 hours. After this time, samples may be sent to Igenomix at room temperature (<35°C/95°F). Deliveries at room temperature should never exceed 5 days.

Samples may also be kept in a refrigerator for up to 3 weeks or may be frozen at -20°C/-4°F (after the first 4 hours at 4-8°C/39-46°F) if they are not being sent to Igenomix straightaway. However, in the case of an EMMA or ALICE test, as the microbiome can fluctuate over time, the recommendation is to process the sample as soon as possible after collection . We do not recommend delaying the shipment of samples for more than a week.



Endometrial Biopsy

Day of Endometrial Biopsy

To perform the EMMA or ALICE tests (alone or with ERA test), antibiotic intake should be avoided at least the 7 days prior to taking the sample. If the patient has taken any antibiotic in the previous three months, it must be reflected in the "Test Requisition Form" of the test: name of the active ingredient, dose, way of administration and duration of the treatment. This includes any prophylactic antibiotic such as those used oocytes retrieval. Likewise, if a biopsy is to be taken during a hysteroscopy, we recommend taking it at the beginning of the procedure, before distending the uterine cavity and without antibiotic treatment during or after the procedure. Other drugs that may alter the patient's microbiota or immunological status should also be included in the form.

Endometrial Biopsy

If only an EMMA or ALICE test is requested, the endometrial biopsy should be taken following the same protocol as for ERA or between days 15 and 25 of the natural cycle (for patients with regular cycles between 26-32 days).

In the case of an ERA test is requested (alone or coupled with other tests) the endometrial biopsy should be performed according to the indications described below^{1) and 2)}.

1) The ERA diagnosis is valid for the type of cycle in which the test was performed, and therefore the embryo must be transferred in the same type of cycle and the personalized window of implantation within which a 'Receptive' diagnosis was obtained. Therefore the type of cycle for biopsy should match to the type of cycle planned for the embryo transfer.



Endometrial Biopsy

2) Cicle type

a) Hormone Replacement Therapy cycle: Involves treatment with oestrogen and progesterone to inhibit endogenous production of these hormones, using the routine protocol at the clinic or our standard protocol:

Patient starts estradiol therapy from the 1st or 2nd day of the menstrual cycle. Ultrasound assessment is performed 7 to 10 days later.

Start the progesterone (P4) intake when a trilaminar endometrium >6 mm is reached with a serum P4 <1 ng/ml (within 24 hours prior to starting exogenous P4), continuing with estradiol treatment. The day on which the P4 treatment starts is referred to as P+0, and the biopsy is taken on day P+5, after 5 full days (120 hours from the first intake to biopsy collection).

Endometrial Biopsy

In an HRT cycle it is very important to ensure that there is no ovulation, and therefore it is recommended to always measure the endogenous P4 level within the 24 hours prior to the first P4 intake. The level should be $<1\text{ng/ml}$, otherwise the recommendation is to cancel the cycle and start a new one.

- b) Natural cycle:** hCG (recombinant or urinary) is administered according to routine parameters in a natural cycle (follicle size $>17\text{ mm}$). The day of the hCG administration is considered as hCG+0 and the biopsy will be taken 7 days later, at hCG+7 (168 hours after hCG triggering).

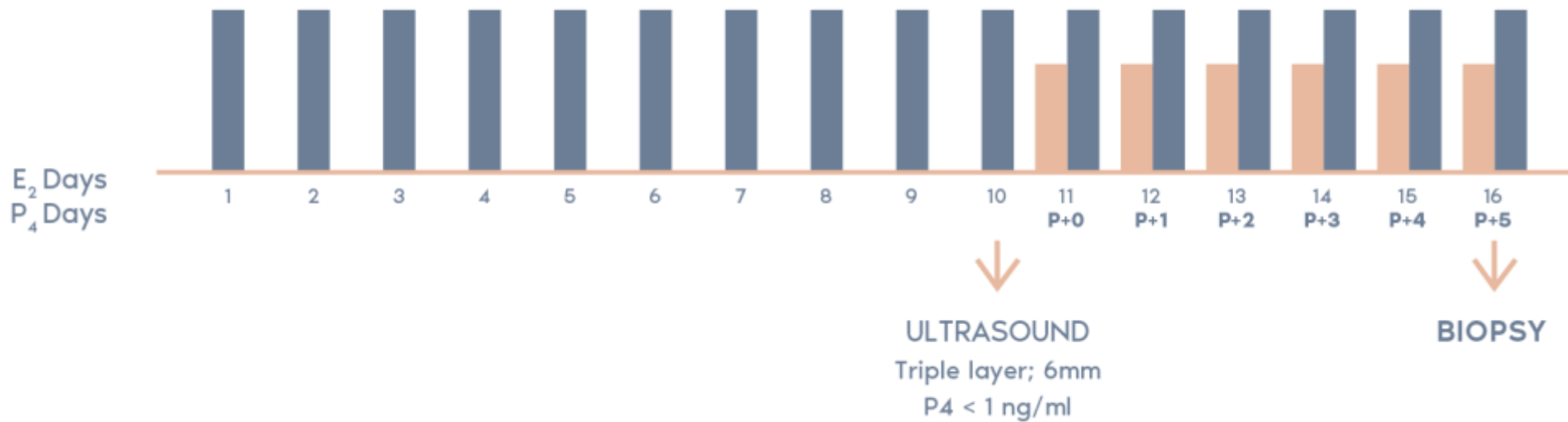
Endometrial Biopsy

- c) **Controlled ovarian stimulation:** The endometrial biopsy cannot be performed in a controlled ovarian stimulated cycle. Therefore, it should be performed in a subsequent HRT or natural cycle as indicated above.

The first biopsy should always be performed at P+5, hCG+7 or LH+7, since the ERA checks the endometrium at the moment of implantation. In that way, If you have a receptive result at P+5, you will transfer a blastocyst at P+5 or a day-3 embryo two days earlier, i.e., at P+3.

Endometrial Biopsy

HRT Routine Protocol



Endometrial Biopsy

Logistics

Sample and documents:

- Read and fill properly all the information required in the “Test Requisition Form” and “Informed Consent”.
- Place the cryotube containing the biopsy inside the rigid plastic blister and close it. Introduce the secondary container inside the kit and introduce it in the plastic (courier) return bag (provided by Igenomix). Insert the receptacle inside the kit box and the box inside the return bag.
- Introduce “Test Requisition Form” and “Informed Consent” previously filled inside the return bag.

Endometrial Biopsy

- Additional instructions if the collection takes place outside Spain: Attach the provided courier documents and UN3373 sticker to the included courier bag to return the sample.
- Transit at room temperature should not exceed 5 days in order to ensure the preservative action of the liquid in the cryotube. We recommend shipping the samples with a cold gel pack if outside temperatures exceed 35°C. For further details, please contact our Customer Support Department.

Shipment:

- Please inform us by email about each shipment, indicating the number of samples and their clinical or reference record number.
- You may use your usual courier, or alternatively ask us about our pick up service.

A complete view of endometrial health

Endometrial Health Solutions

REQUESTED TEST	TESTS INCLUDED AND APPLICATION				
EndomeTRIO The endometrium matters	ENDOMETRIAL RECEPTIVITY ANALYSIS Expression of 248 genes to guide pET*	+	COMPLETE MICROBIOME ANALYSIS Percentage of Lactobacilli, pathogens and dysbiotic bacteria Microbiological counselling for a personalized treatment	+	CHRONIC ENDOMETRITIS Pathogenic bacteria related to CE Microbiological counselling for a personalized treatment
ERA® Endometrial Receptivity Analysis	ENDOMETRIAL RECEPTIVITY ANALYSIS Expression of 248 genes to guide pET*				
EMMA Endometrial Microbiome Metagenomic Analysis			COMPLETE MICROBIOME ANALYSIS Percentage of Lactobacilli, pathogens and dysbiotic bacteria Microbiological counselling for a personalized treatment	+	CHRONIC ENDOMETRITIS Pathogenic bacteria related to CE Microbiological counselling for a personalized treatment
ALICE Analysis of Infectious Chronic Endometritis					CHRONIC ENDOMETRITIS Pathogenic bacteria related to CE Microbiological counselling for a personalized treatment

*pET: personalized embryo transfer

Igenomix®

