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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Embryo development in dynamic microfluidic systems

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Abstract

Infertility has become a highly-spread disease but the efficiency of standard *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) cycles is only 30%, and their cost is very high. Recently, strategies based on microfluidics and dynamic *in vitro* systems have been proposed to improve the throughput of successful assisted hatchings. Here, these novel methods are presented and categorized in three main groups: microdroplet dynamic bioreactors, microchannel based cultures and microcontainers. In contraposition to the conventional static cultures, these devices introduce a dynamic microenvironment in order to mimic the physiological dynamic stimulations that are crucial for embryo development. The critical parameters-such as embryo density, medium flow rate, shear stress and microvibration frequency-are discussed and critically compared

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