

# Accepted Manuscript

Title: Peraivitelline threads in cleavage-stage human embryos: observations using time-lapse imaging

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**Short title:** Perivitelline threads in cleavage-stage human embryos

**Peraivitelline threads in cleavage-stage human embryos: observations using time-lapse imaging**

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**Key message**

Perivitelline threads were observed during human zygote cleavage. Spanning the perivitelline space, they appear as the cytoplasmic membrane withdraws from the zona pellucida. They are observed in 56% of embryos, and are associated with fragmentation. We postulate that they have a role in the mechanics of cytokinesis and fragmentation.

**KEYWORDS:** cytokinesis, cleavage, perivitelline space, fragmentation, zygote, zona pellucida

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