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Test may help detect fertility problems

(Guilford-WTNH, July 28, 2003 5:00 PM) _ A major breakthrough for women coping with infertility. A Yale researcher has come up with the Endometrial Function Test aimed at helping women who don't know why they're not getting pregnant.

- [Watch the story by News Channel 8's Jocelyn Maminta](#)

The biological clock is ticking for Linda Bergonzi King who just turned 39. She and her husband Bobby have tried everything to start a family, including in-vitro fertilization.

"When you're waiting those two weeks when you have to wait to see if you're pregnant you're trying not to think about it and when it finally comes that you're not pregnant it's a whole letdown," she said. "Then you have to start the whole process all over again."

It's women like Linda who Dr. Harvey Kliman is trying to help. 13 years of research at his laboratory at Yale's School of Medicine have lead to developing a test to determine if a woman's uterine lining is normal.

"What we've done with our research in the laboratory is to develop a way to look at the tissue and look at specific markers and figure out if it's normal or not," he said, increasing the odds of getting pregnant

"The endometrium is something like the soil, and we're talking about putting a plant in the soil and we want to know if the soil is functioning normal."

But abnormal markers do not necessarily mean a woman can never get conceive.

"Even if it's bad news, what it is actually useful for, it helps the physician figure out ways to fix the endometrium."

Initially the research focused on patients who've suffered miscarriages or failed attempts at in-vitro like Linda. It is Dr. Kliman's hope it will soon be used as an early screening method for patients trying to get pregnant.

"I know doctors have said and women have gotten pregnant in their 40's some in their 50's," Linda said. "Hopefully that will happen to us too. I'm waiting."

This is a problem among women of all ages. Dr. Kliman says a woman with an abnormal uterine lining is ten times less likely to get pregnant.

The test is available. Doctors around the country are taking part.

For more information you can call Dr. Kliman at the Yale School of Medicine at (203) 785-3854. <http://info.med.yale.edu/obgyn/kliman/>



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