Insert in IVF Consent if appropriate:

Embryo culture with INVOcell:

After eggs are retrieved, they are transferred to the embryology laboratory where they are temporarily kept in conditions that support their growth.  The eggs are placed in small dishes or tubes containing "culture medium," which is special fluid to support egg survival/viability and fertilization. The fluid is made to resemble the conditions in the Fallopian tubes and uterus.

Immediately following egg retrieval, sperm are placed in the culture medium with the eggs or injected into individual eggs (a process called “ICSI”). The eggs are then placed in the INVOcell device, where they remain to fertilize and develop. The INVOcell device is in turn placed into the vagina so that appropriate culture conditions can be achieved .  Five days later, the device will be removed, and the culture media will be inspected. By this time, most normally developing embryos have reached the blastocyst stage.

It is important to understand that in nature, many eggs and embryos are abnormal. This means that some eggs will not fertilize, and some embryos will not divide at a normal rate. Some embryos may stop growing. Even if your embryo(s) develop normally in the INVOcell, you still may not get pregnant. Some embryos end up being genetically abnormal. The best embryo(s) for transfer are usually selected by the way they look under the microscope.

We take great care of all eggs, embryos, and sperm in the lab. Still, there are many reasons why pregnancy may not happen, both with routine embryo culture and INVOcell culture:

* The eggs may fail to fertilize.
* One or more eggs may fertilize abnormally. This can lead to an abnormal number of chromosomes in the embryo.
* The fertilized eggs may fall apart before dividing into embryos, or the embryos may not develop normally.
* Rarely, the eggs or embryos may be harmed by contact with bacteria in the lab or in the INVOcell.
* In spite of having backup systems in place, lab equipment may fail or power may be lost on day 0 or day 5 while the eggs and/or embryos are in the lab. Both can lead to the destruction of eggs, sperm, and embryos.
* A lab accident or human error can happen and can lead to embryo loss.
* Other unplanned events may prevent any step of the process from being performed or prevent a pregnancy from occurring.
* Hurricanes, floods, or other “acts of God,” including bombings or other terrorist acts, could destroy the laboratory or its contents on day 0 or day 5 including any sperm, eggs, or embryos.