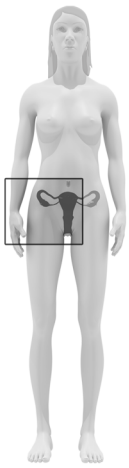


Natural fertilization



4. Cell division

The fertilized egg starts dividing and is now called an embryo.

5. Implantation

The embryo attaches to the mucosa in the uterus, where it continues to develop.

3. Fertilization

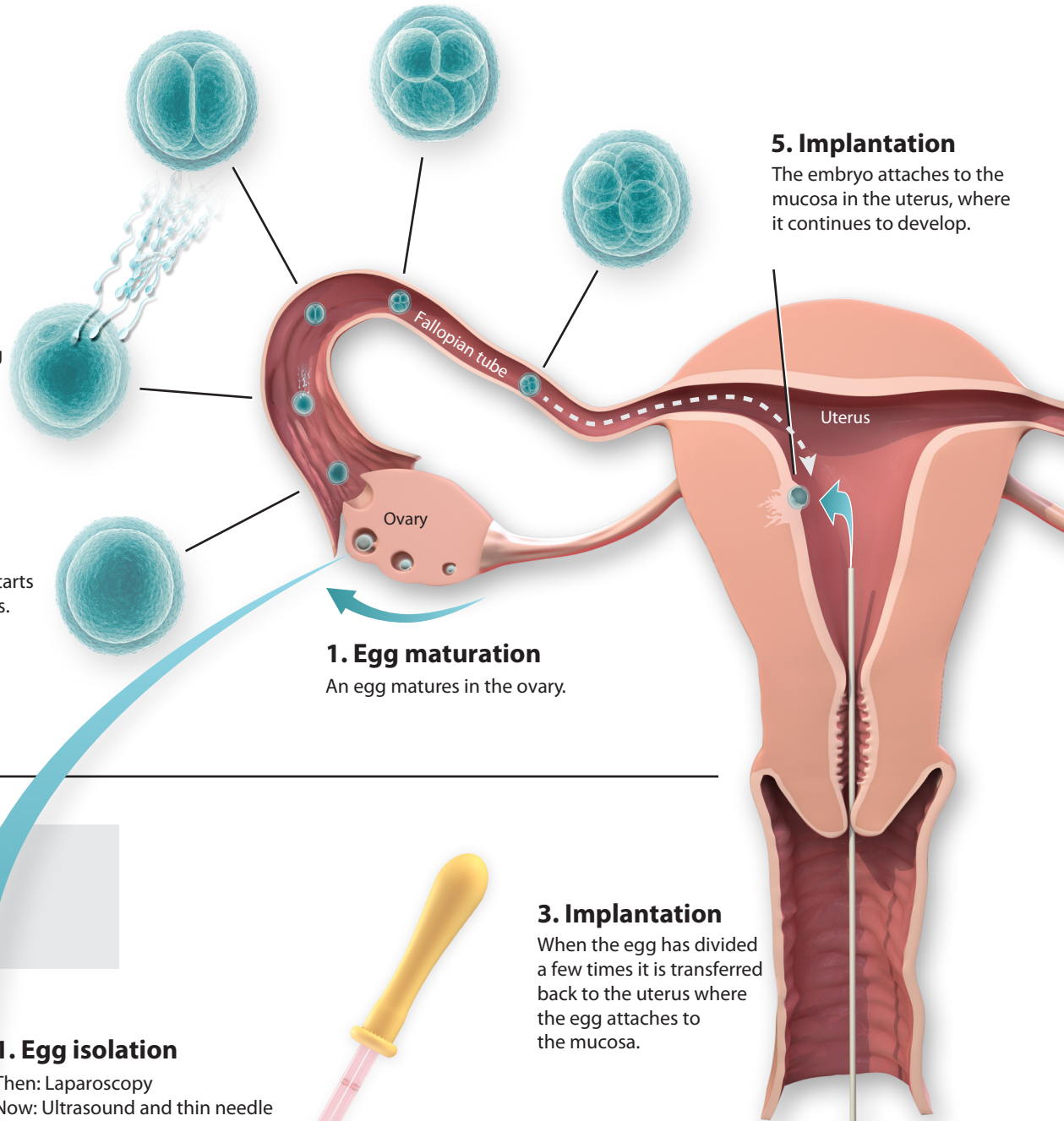
One sperm fertilizes the egg. A reaction in the egg blocks other sperm from entering.

2. Ovulation

The egg is released and starts its migration to the uterus.

1. Egg maturation

An egg matures in the ovary.



IVF

1. Egg isolation

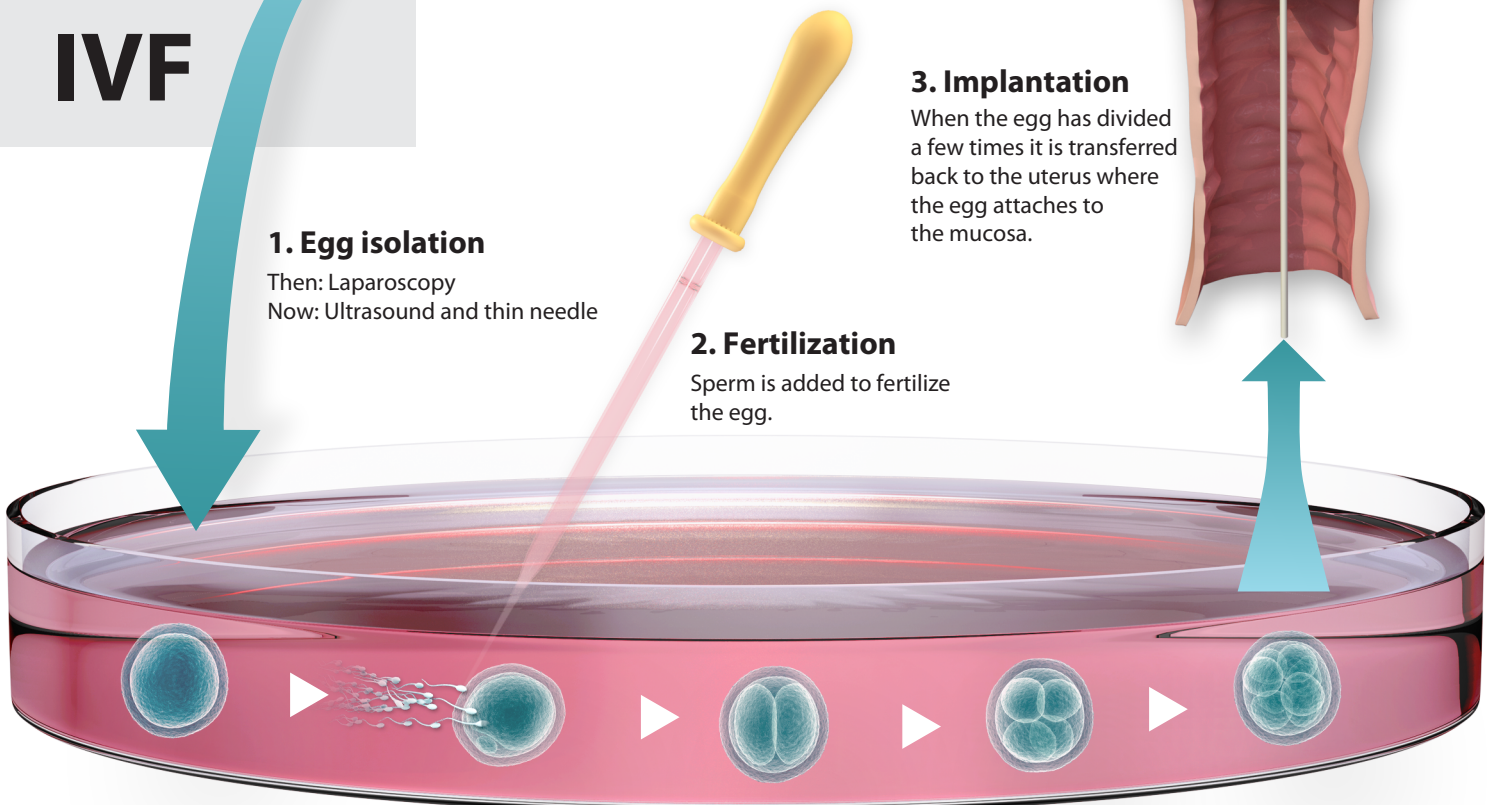
Then: Laparoscopy
Now: Ultrasound and thin needle

2. Fertilization

Sperm is added to fertilize the egg.

3. Implantation

When the egg has divided a few times it is transferred back to the uterus where the egg attaches to the mucosa.



IVF is used when sperm and egg can not meet under normal conditions. Common causes include obstructed fallopian tubes, too few eggs or impaired production of sperm.