

AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE BASED APPROACH FOR SELECTING THE OPTIMAL DAY FOR TRIGGERING IN ANTAGONIST PROTOCOL CYCLES

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Abstract

Can a machine-learning model suggest an optimal trigger-day (or days), analyzing three consecutive days, to maximize the number of total and mature (MII) oocytes retrieved, during an antagonist protocol cycle?

A retrospective cohort study including 9,622 antagonist cycles between [2018-2022](#). The dataset was divided into training, validation and test sets. An XGBoost machine-learning algorithm, based on the cycles' data, suggested optimal trigger-days for maximizing the number of MII retrieved by considering the MII prediction, prediction errors and outlier detection results. The evaluation of the algorithm was conducted using a test dataset including three quality groups: "Freeze-all-oocytes", "Fertilize-all" and "ICSI-only" cycles. The model suggested one, two, or three days as trigger options, depending on the difference in potential outcomes. The suggested days were compared to the actual trigger-day chosen by the physician and were labeled "concordant" or "discordant" as per agreement.

Result

In the "Freeze-All" test-set, the concordant group showed an average increase of 4.8 oocytes and 3.4 MII oocytes. In the "ICSI-only" test-set there was an average increase of 3.8 MII oocytes and 1.1 embryos, and in the "Fertilize-all" test set an average increase of 3.6 oocytes and 0.9 embryos was observed ($p < 0.001$ for all parameters in all groups). Results were consistent among all age groups.

Conclusion

Utilizing a machine-learning model for determining the optimal trigger-day or days, may improve antagonist protocol cycle outcomes across all age groups, in freeze-all or fresh transfer cycles. These models may optimize the physicians' decisions, balance workloads and create more standardized, yet patient specific protocols.

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