Understanding In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)...

What to Expect During Egg Retrieval

- After gonadotropin treatment, when the follicles have matured, you will be instructed to give yourself an injection of human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG)

- Approximately 34 to 36 hours later, your doctor will remove the eggs from the follicles in your ovaries. Your doctor will explain the various medication options available to keep you comfortable during egg retrieval

- An ultrasound probe will be inserted into your vagina so your doctor can see the follicles

- A thin needle, attached to the probe, goes through the vaginal wall and into the ovary to draw the fluid and egg from each follicle

- This fluid is given to the embryologist, who examines it for eggs

- The entire procedure usually takes about 1 hour. You will then rest for about 1 hour to recover before going home