



Seminal Fluid – Reference Values

Seminal fluid analysis for infertility presents particular challenges to the laboratory, not only in terms of standardisation of the laboratory process, but also in maintaining sperm motility from the time of collection until examination. In addition, the sperm count and motility in any one individual can be highly variable over time.

Over recent years procedures have become more standardised, and reference value studies have been better performed by evaluating men who along with their partner have recently achieved a pregnancy. This has led to changes in what is considered normal for a seminal fluid.

To reflect these changes we have reviewed our reference values and updated them to what is currently considered normal.

Reference values:

Volume	1.5 – 6 ml
Sperm count	>15 million/ml
Total Sperm	>40 million
Motility	>32% Progressive
	OR >40% Progressive + Non-progressive

Standardisation of motility examination is assisted by keeping seminal fluid specimens at 35°C, and if transportation is required then thermos flasks pre-warmed to 35°C are utilised. These practises have overall been reliable in maintaining motility when examinations cannot be performed in a short time frame.

References: WHO laboratory manual for the examination of human semen and sperm-cervical mucus interaction. 4th Edition.
Handbook of Andrology. ASA. 2nd Edition.

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CLINICAL UPDATE