

Inside the embryology laboratory

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How embryos live through their first five days, what the embryologist watches, and why the lab keeps its own climate.

The laboratory is the quietest room in the clinic. Temperature, humidity and the make-up of the air are held steady, and the light stays low around the clock.

An embryologist's bench

The first five days

Every day has its own name and its own check.

- Day 0 — fertilisation
- Day 1 — assessing the pronuclei
- Day 3 — the cleavage stage
- Day 5 — the blastocyst

An embryologist never hurries. Hurry here costs a protocol.