

A laboratory setting with various pieces of equipment. In the foreground, there are several pipettes on the left, a microscope in the center, and a thermal cycler on the right. In the background, there are shelves with glassware and other lab equipment. The image is slightly blurred, giving it a professional and scientific feel.

MALE FERTILITY DIAGNOSTICS

How Examen Sperm DNA Testing May Support Clinic Pathways

Examen provides specialist sperm DNA fragmentation testing designed to support clinician-led fertility assessment, patient counselling, and treatment planning discussions. When used in selected cases, SDF testing may provide additional information about sperm DNA integrity beyond standard semen analysis.

Supporting Clinical Assessment with Sperm DNA Fragmentation Testing

Examen provides a specialist sperm DNA fragmentation (SDF) test supported by published research and over 25 years of peer-reviewed science. The WHO laboratory manual includes sperm DNA fragmentation as a supplementary assessment parameter — the exact edition and wording should be cited when referenced in clinical communications.

Routine semen analysis does not directly assess sperm DNA fragmentation. Where standard assessment does not identify a clear cause, SDF testing may provide additional information that is clinically relevant in selected fertility cases.

By incorporating SDF testing into your diagnostic pathway, clinicians may be better placed to investigate possible male-factor contributions in selected cases of failed ART cycles, recurrent pregnancy loss, or unexplained infertility — and to support clinician-led discussion of next steps.

25+

Years of Peer-Reviewed Science

WHO

Supplementary Assessment
Parameter in WHO Laboratory
Manual

3

Clinical Scenarios Where SDF
Testing May Be Considered:
Failed ART Cycles, Recurrent
Pregnancy Loss & Unexplained
Infertility





Support ART Treatment Planning & Investigation of Unexplained Infertility



Support Assessment in ART Treatment Planning

Sperm DNA fragmentation may be a possible contributing factor in selected cases of IVF failure. Where SDF damage is identified, clinicians may consider this information alongside other findings to support clinician-led discussion of potential treatment options — which may include lifestyle review, antioxidant assessment, or further ART protocol discussion where clinically appropriate.



Support Investigation of Unexplained Infertility

For couples who have received no clear diagnosis despite extensive testing, unexplained infertility can be a difficult experience. Examining SDF testing may provide additional information that helps clinicians investigate possible male-factor contributions — supporting clinician-led counselling and discussion of potential next steps.

Support Recurrent Pregnancy Loss Assessment and Pathway Planning



Support Recurrent Pregnancy Loss Assessment

Not all sperm DNA damage is equal. Examen technology differentiates between single-strand and double-strand DNA damage — a clinically significant distinction. Double-strand breaks are reported in some studies to be associated with recurrent pregnancy loss. By identifying the type of damage present, clinicians may consider this information alongside other findings to support counselling and pathway planning with additional information.

This level of diagnostic detail may support clinician-led discussion of embryo selection, fertilisation technique, and cycle timing — supporting counselling in recurrent pregnancy loss investigations.



Consider Financial Implications of Repeated Cycles

Failed ART cycles carry a significant emotional and financial burden for patients. Where a possible contributing factor has not been assessed, couples may proceed through repeated cycles without additional diagnostic information. Examen SDF testing may help identify potentially modifiable factors before or during treatment planning — supporting more informed counselling and supporting clinical governance and patient communication.





Assess Commercial Integration & Support Complex Male Factor Cases



Assess Commercial Integration

Examen SDF testing is an additional diagnostic service that may be offered without major capital expenditure, subject to local workflow, logistics, and staffing requirements. It is designed to integrate into existing workflows, allowing clinics to expand their diagnostic offering and model potential revenue under clinic-specific assumptions, while providing clinically relevant information.



Support Complex Male Factor Cases

For patients presenting with complex male factor infertility, routine semen analysis does not directly assess sperm DNA fragmentation. Examen SDF testing may identify DNA damage that standard parameters — morphology, motility, concentration — do not assess, providing additional information that may support management of selected complex cases.

Address Advanced Paternal Age, Donor Screening & Medical Tourism



Advanced Paternal Age

Sperm DNA integrity may decline with age in some men — a factor that may be relevant in fertility assessments involving older paternal age. Examen SDF testing can assess sperm DNA damage, which may be relevant to clinician-led treatment planning, helping clinicians counsel patients and consider findings alongside other clinical information.



Enhance Donor Screening

Standard donor sperm screening does not routinely include SDF analysis, which may leave an additional area for consideration in donor assessment. Adding Examen SDF testing to your donor assessment protocol may provide additional information for donor assessment protocols.



Strengthen Medical Tourism Appeal

International patients seeking fertility treatment are increasingly informed. Offering specialist diagnostic capabilities such as SDF testing may support clinic differentiation and signals a commitment to evidence-informed care — which may be relevant to international patient positioning.





Support Earlier Diagnostic Discussion & Clinical Rationale for Further Assessment



Support Earlier Diagnostic Discussion

Every additional cycle represents weeks or months of waiting, emotional strain, and financial cost for patients. By incorporating SDF assessment earlier in the diagnostic pathway, clinicians may be better placed to support earlier clinician-led discussion of possible options — supporting a more informed treatment planning discussion and may support clearer patient communication.



Support Clinical Rationale for Further Assessment or ART Discussion

Recommending advanced procedures such as ICSI, IMSI, or PICSI requires a clear clinical rationale. Examen SDF results may provide additional data — objective, research-supported information that may support clinician-led discussion of whether additional ART techniques are appropriate when clinically indicated. This supports documentation and patient counselling, and helps ensure that advanced techniques are considered where clinically appropriate.

Support Male Fertility Assessment, Track Progress & Reduce Diagnostic Blind Spots



Support Male Fertility Assessment

Pre-conception health is no longer solely a female concern. Growing numbers of men are seeking proactive screening before starting a family. Examen SDF testing enables clinics to offer an additional male fertility assessment service — assessing sperm DNA integrity, supporting lifestyle or medical review, and supporting a broader male fertility pathway.



Track Treatment Progress

SDF testing may be repeated where clinically appropriate. Repeat testing allows clinicians to monitor changes in sperm DNA fragmentation over time — for example, following antioxidant supplementation, lifestyle changes, or surgical treatment. This longitudinal capability may support ongoing clinical review and counselling.



Reduce Diagnostic Blind Spots

In surrogacy and third-party reproduction, assessment can be particularly important where male factor has not been fully considered. Examen SDF testing may support more comprehensive assessment in these complex cases — supporting more informed decision-making and appropriate counselling and planning for all parties involved.





Improve Reporting Efficiency

Examen is designed with clinical workflow in mind. Results are delivered in a structured format within the stated turnaround time, which may help streamline communication and support smoother patient flow. Clear, well-structured reports may make it easier for clinicians to communicate findings to patients and to integrate results into treatment planning more efficiently.

In a busy fertility clinic, efficiency supports quality care. Examen may help your team manage diagnostic information without compromising on the depth of clinical information provided.



Attract Top Clinical Talent

Some fertility specialists seek environments committed to adopting advanced diagnostics and evidence-informed practice. Offering specialist diagnostic services such as SDF testing may signal that your clinic is committed to adopting advanced diagnostics — making it a more attractive destination for clinicians who want access to specialist diagnostic tools. Advanced diagnostics may help progressive clinics stand out in a competitive recruitment landscape.

Aligned with WHO Guidance

The WHO laboratory manual includes sperm DNA fragmentation as a supplementary assessment parameter. Examen technology is informed by published research and relevant laboratory guidance — consistent with growing clinical interest in SDF assessment, subject to local guidelines and clinical indication.

Backed by Peer-Reviewed Science

With over 25 years of published research supporting the technology, Examen offers clinics a research-supported diagnostic service.

Better Data. Better Decisions. Better-Informed Care.

Examen Labs — Supporting Fertility Decision-Making.

Potential Clinical Use Cases

From ART treatment planning support to donor screening, SDF testing may be relevant in a range of selected fertility care scenarios.

25+ Years of Science

Informed by published research and relevant laboratory guidance, consistent with growing clinical interest in SDF assessment.

Designed for Low-CapEx Integration

Designed to integrate into existing clinic workflows without major capital expenditure, subject to local workflow, logistics, and staffing requirements.

"Specialist sperm DNA fragmentation testing that may support fertility assessment, counselling, and clinical decision-making."

This information is intended for healthcare professional education and clinic pathway discussion only. Examen SDF test results should be interpreted by a qualified clinician alongside semen analysis, female-factor assessment, reproductive history, embryo development data, and other relevant investigations. The test does not diagnose infertility on its own, does not identify a single root cause in every case, and does not guarantee fertilisation, pregnancy, live birth, miscarriage reduction, shorter time to pregnancy, lower treatment costs, improved clinic revenue, or improved fertility outcomes.

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