

## Study and Characterization of the Mechanical Properties Alteration of the Mouse Ovum Zona Pellucida by Micropipette Aspiration Technique

M. Khalilian<sup>1</sup>, M. Navidbakhsh<sup>2</sup>, M. Rezazadeh<sup>3</sup>, M. Chizari<sup>4</sup>, P. Eftekhari<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> PhD Candidate, Mechanical Engineering School, Iran University of Science & Technology, Tehran, Iran, mkhalilian@iust.ac.ir

<sup>2</sup> Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering School, Iran University of Science & Technology, Tehran, Iran

<sup>3</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Embryology, Infertility and IVF Unit, Royan Institute, Tehran, Iran, mr\_valojerdi@yahoo.com

<sup>4</sup> Assistant Professor, School of Mechanics, Aerospace and Civil Engineering, University of Manchester, UK, mahmoudchizari@yahoo.com

<sup>5</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Embryology, Infertility and IVF Unit, Royan Institute, Tehran, Iran, peyazdi@yahoo.com

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### Abstract

Recently, considerable biomedical attention has centered on the mechanical properties of living tissues at the single cell level. Stiffness is an important parameter in determining the physical properties of living tissues. Indeed, stiffness changes of the ovum as a single cell pose a unique challenge in determining the sequence of fertilization. The ovum's extracellular layer has been reported to be altered following fertilization in a process described as zona reaction. In the present study, the Young's modulus of Zona Pellucida of the mouse ovum was evaluated using micropipette aspiration technique. By incorporating exact engineering principles into the cell mechanics and extract appropriate formula, the Young's modulus of metaphase-II (MII) and pronuclear (PN) was measured. The experimental results clearly demonstrated that the mouse Zona Pellucida hardened following fertilization. This study involves the contents of Reproductive Biology and Mechanics, and opens up a new trail of thought for evaluating the quality of mammalian oocytes and embryos.

**Keywords:** Young's modulus; Micropipette aspiration; Living cells; Zona Pellucid; Fertilization

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\* Corresponding author

Address: Mahdi Navidbakhsh, Mechanical Engineering School, Iran University of Science & Technology, Hengam St., Resalat Sq., Tehran, Iran

Tel: +98 21 77240283

Fax: +98 21 77240488

E-mail: mnavid@iust.ac.ir

**m Khalilian@iust.ac.ir**

**mr\_valojerdi@yahoo.com**

**mahmoudchizari@yahoo.com**

**peyazdi@yahoo.com**

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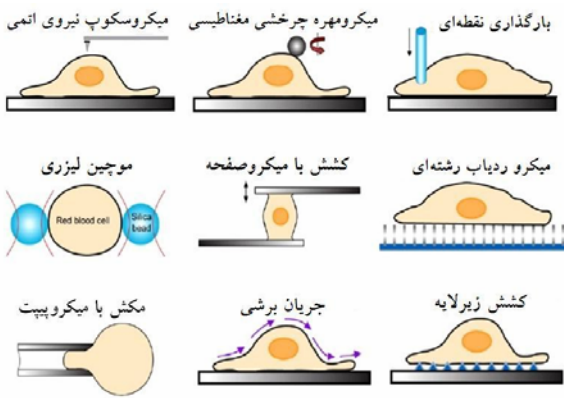
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<sup>1</sup> Thermo viscoelasticity  
<sup>5</sup> IntraCytoplasmic Sperm Injection  
<sup>9</sup> Sensor  
<sup>13</sup> Micropipette Aspiration

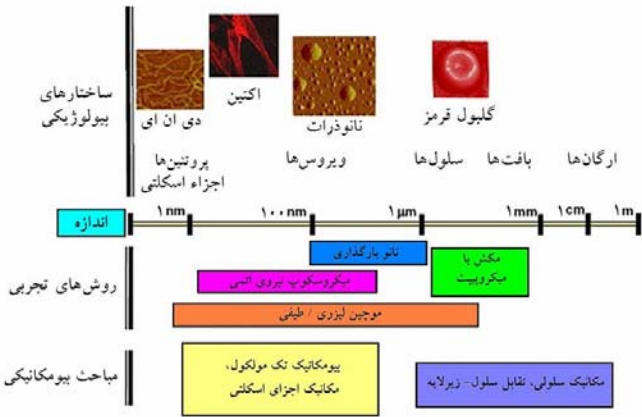
<sup>2</sup> Thermodynamic  
<sup>6</sup> Zona reaction  
<sup>10</sup> Murayama

<sup>3</sup> Zona Pellucida  
<sup>7</sup> Drobnis  
<sup>11</sup> Micro Sensor

<sup>4</sup> In vitro Fertilization  
<sup>8</sup> Sun  
<sup>12</sup> Elasticity

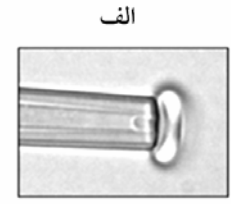
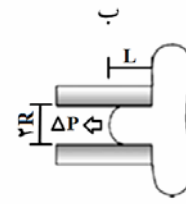


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$$\frac{L_p}{R_p} = 1$$

$$\Delta P = 2T_c \left( \frac{1}{R_p} - \frac{1}{R_c} \right) \quad \text{When } (\Delta P = \Delta P_c \quad \frac{L_p}{R_p} = 1)$$

$$R_c \quad T_c$$

$$\Delta P_c$$

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<sup>15</sup> Isotonic  
<sup>19</sup> Viscosity  
<sup>23</sup> PatchMan 5173  
<sup>27</sup> P-97, Sutter

<sup>16</sup> Chondrocyte  
<sup>20</sup> Evans and Yeung  
<sup>24</sup> Micro injector: Transjector5246

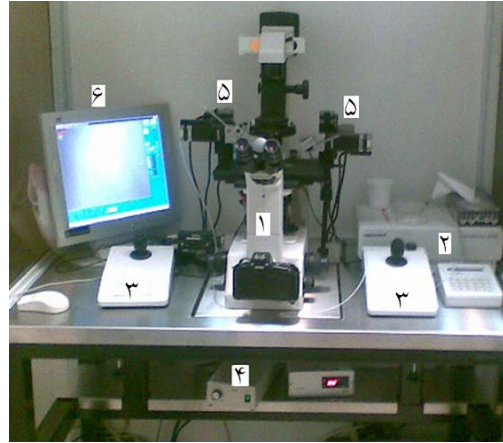
<sup>17</sup> Endothelial  
<sup>21</sup> Micro Manipulator  
<sup>25</sup> Petri dish

<sup>18</sup> Yang Module  
<sup>22</sup> Nikon, Eclipse, TE 300  
<sup>26</sup> GC 100T-10

NMRI

PMSG

/  
HCG



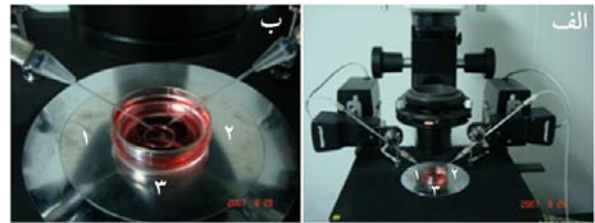
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( $L_p/R_p =$  )

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<sup>28</sup> Institute Research Medical National  
<sup>31</sup> Falope  
<sup>34</sup> Bovine Serum Albumin

<sup>29</sup> Pregnant Mare's Serum Gonadotropin  
<sup>32</sup> Stereomicroscope  
<sup>35</sup> Recombinant Human Albumin; Vitrolife, Sweden

<sup>30</sup> Human Corionic Gonadotropin  
<sup>33</sup> Flash Method  
<sup>36</sup> Viscoelastic



$\mu\text{m}$   
( $D_p = H$ )

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/  $\pm$  / (n= )

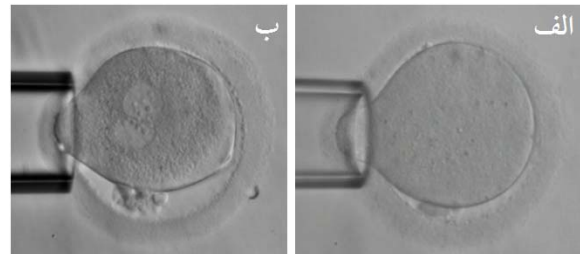
/  $\pm$  / (n= )

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$$\left(h = \frac{H}{3}\right)$$

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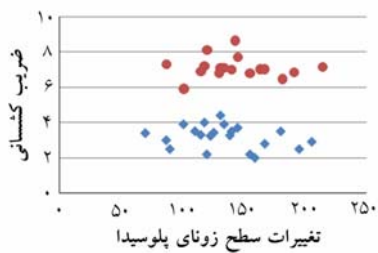


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( )	/	$L_p/\Delta P = /$		
		$L_p/\Delta P = /$		
( )	/	$E = / \text{ kPa}$		
		$E = / \text{ kPa}$		
( )	/	$E = / \text{ kPa}$	(MTS)	
		$E = / \text{ kPa}$		
( )	/	$E = / \text{ kPa}$	(MTS)	
		$E = / \text{ kPa}$		
	/	$E = / \text{ kPa}$		
		$E = / \text{ kPa}$		

E (KPa)	$\alpha$ (%)	L ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	h ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	$\Delta P$ (KPa)	$D_p$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	H ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	$D_{\text{cell}}$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )		
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/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/		
/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/		(PN)
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