1. Egg maturation
An egg matures in the ovary.

2. Ovulation
The egg is released and starts its migration to the uterus.

3. Fertilization
One sperm fertilizes the egg. A reaction in the egg blocks other sperm from entering.

4. Cell division
The fertilized egg starts dividing and is now called an embryo.

5. Implantation
The embryo attaches to the mucosa in the uterus, where it continues to develop.

IVF
1. Egg isolation
Then: Laparoscopy
Now: Ultrasound and thin needle

2. Fertilization
Sperm is added to fertilize the egg.

3. Implantation
When the egg has divided a few times it is transferred back to the uterus where the egg attaches to the mucosa.

IVF is used when sperm and egg cannot meet under normal conditions. Common causes include obstructed fallopian tubes, too few eggs or impaired production of sperm.

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Illustration: Mattias Karlén