

Mechanical Infertility Study Investigator Criteria

Thank you for your interest in becoming an investigator in Mechanical Infertility Systematic Study: a multi-center trial comparing two types of manual therapy interventions for females with mechanical infertility.

We understand that many therapists have multiple skills that they have used successfully with their patients throughout their career. We are testing a very specific protocol that has proven in the past to be successful. For integrity of the research, we need to have all of the therapists involved to have identical training in the techniques that are being tested. The following training is mandatory:

1. A functional working knowledge of strain-counterstrain technique.
2. A functional working knowledge of muscle energy technique for the pelvic structures
3. Visceral Mobilization Level 1 (Herman & Wallace)

<https://hermanwallace.com/continuing-education-courses/visceral-mobilization-level-1>

Therapists who have received previous visceral training, may be able to bypass the initial visceral course listed above. In order to do so you need to have completed training and have an excellent working knowledge of mobilization of the following: bladder, urachus, mesenteric root, peritoneum, small intestine, cecum and sigmoid colon. If you meet these criteria, you may be able to bypass the initial visceral mobilization level 1 course. This will be determined on a case by case basis.

4. Visceral Mobilization Level 2 (Herman & Wallace)

<https://hermanwallace.com/continuing-education-courses/visceral-mobilization-level-2>

The specific treatments in the protocol are not taught in any current Barral Institute courses in the United States or the SOWH visceral courses. There are no exceptions to this requirement.

5. Lymph Drainage and Vascular Release for the Abdomen & Pelvis (Pelvic Health Research Initiative)

http://www.pelvichealthresearch.org/store/c1/Featured_Products.html

Therapists that currently hold a CLT will still need to take this lymph course for infertility offered by PHRI. This course goes over lymph drainage of the deep lymphatic structures of the abdomen and pelvis, including organ drainage. The PHRI course also reviews vascular releases, strain-counterstrain, muscle energy techniques and the entire MISS protocol.

It is advisable that you have completed all visceral course work prior to attending the lymph training because it provides an overview of the entire protocol and helps to tie all of the techniques together.

Even though you are not currently participating in MISS, we strongly recommend that once you have received your training that you begin working with infertility patients. We want to test the techniques with experienced clinicians participating in this study. Novice therapists although enthusiastic, have a steep learning curve that is not advantageous in clinical research where practitioner skill is tested alongside the protocol.

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In order to qualify as an investigator for phase 2 of MISS, all therapists will need to be working under the approval of an institutional review board. If you will be working in a hospital based clinic, you will need to obtain approval of your own facility IRB if one exists. If you are operating in a private practice or a facility without an IRB you may be able to obtain IRB approval under an umbrella facility. It is advisable that you consider this requirement when deciding your participation in MISS.