

there was a fetal heartbeat at six-weeks (Cohen's $d = .40$), although this trend failed to achieve significance ($p < .15$). Similarly, patients who failed to achieve clinical pregnancy were on average 0.3 standard deviations higher in negative emotion than patients who achieved clinical pregnancy; again this trend failed to achieve significance ($p < .23$). Embryo quality was also predicted inversely by depressive symptoms ($r = -.27, p < .02$) and positively by satisfaction with life ($r = .22, p < .05$) but not by positive emotion ($r = .06$) nor optimism ($r = .01$). No significant relationships between psychological variables and outcome were observed among women of good ($n = 216$) or average prognosis ($n = 136$).

CONCLUSION: Prior findings on the effects of psychological variables on IVF outcome have been mixed. We speculate that the inconsistency of findings derives, at least in part, from poorly validated measures of psychological variables and the failure to examine whether these relationships depend on underlying factors affecting prognosis. In the current study, we find a robust relationship between negative emotion and embryo quality among poor prognosis but not among good or average prognoses IVF patients. Further research should explore the possibility that interventional measures affecting depression and emotion could positively affect clinical outcomes in poor prognosis IVF patients.

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Tuesday, October 24, 2006
5:00 pm

O-132

ASSESSMENT OF MOTIVATIONS, ATTITUDES AND PSYCHOSOCIAL FEATURES AMONG VOLUNTARY OOCYTE DONORS IN ARGENTINA. D. Glujovsky, D. Fernandez, L. Urdapilleta, C. Sueldo, S. Kopelman, G. Fiszbajn. CEGyR, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

OBJECTIVE: To determine which are the main motivations, attitudes and psychosocial features among voluntary egg donors in an Academic Fertility Center in Argentina.

DESIGN: Transversal, descriptive study.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: Participants included 23 voluntary oocyte donors at CEGyR (Centro de Estudios en Ginecología y Reproducción), Buenos Aires, Argentina. All of them completed a questionnaire in person at our facility. To minimize the recall bias, only women who have donated oocytes at our facility within the past 12 months were included (March 2005-2006). This is an anonymous egg donor program based on cycles where the whole oocyte cohort is shared by several recipients. The Institutional Review Board approved the study protocol and waived consent. Mean age of the donors was 25.3 ± 2.7 years old. Ninety percent were catholic and 9 % were agnostic. Only 43% of them were married but 87% were already mothers. The questionnaire was anonymous and had multiple choice and open-ended questions. Items were grouped into three domains: motivations, satisfaction after having participated in the program and anonymity.

RESULTS: When participants answered open-ended questions about motivations for egg donation, financial compensation (65%) and altruism (52%) were the most frequent reasons; 17% of them answered that both reasons were their main motivations. Interestingly, 65% answered that they would be egg donors even if there was no financial compensation. Other altruistic considerations were noticed when most donors answered that they would donate oocytes for medical investigation (60%), but almost none would donate unless they knew for what those donated eggs would be used. Also, most of them would donate blood to unknown people (78%) or would be dead-organ donors (91%). Most donors have told their family (83%) or friends (65%) about their participation in the program. Only one donor (1/23) said that she felt less satisfied than expected after doing the donation, while 35% were as satisfied as they expected and 61% were even more satisfied than expected; 95% mentioned that they would donate again. In an open-ended question about the worst experience during the donation process, post-surgical pain, frequent blood testing and medication side-effects were the most common. Results about anonymity were not conclusive. Among all donors, 56 % said that it was of little or no importance that the program was anonymous; however, most of them showed no interest in meeting the recipient (83%) or the child (70%) if the donation was successful. On the other hand, 74% wanted to be contacted in case medical information was needed because of any health issues related to the child.

CONCLUSION: This is an original study about a Latin-American pop-

ulation of young voluntary oocyte donors. Identifying their motivation and attitudes toward egg donation is important because the demand for oocyte donation cycles is increasing, yet the social and religious pressure limits donor recruitment. Most of the data already published is based on Caucasian donors from developed countries and we believe that cultural, psychological, religious and philosophical factors are important when analyzing motivations in an egg donor program. From our own study, we conclude that main motivations are economic compensation and altruism, which is consistent with other data previously published in other populations. Also we can say that level of satisfaction was high and most of them would donate eggs again.

Supported by: None.

Tuesday, October 24, 2006
5:15 pm

O-133

FAMILIES CREATED BY OVUM DONATION: PRELIMINARY DATA ON PARENTS' THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ABOUT THE DONATION EXPERIENCE AND DISCLOSURE. L. D. Applegarth, M. P. Riddle, K. Amoroso, L. Josephs, E. Grill, I. Cholst. Weill-Cornell Medical Coll, New York, NY; Pennsylvania State Univ, State College, PA.

OBJECTIVE: Very little is really known about families who have children conceived through egg donation. There are at least two key issues that are underrepresented in the literature and are the focus of the present study: There is a need for general follow-up information about families created through ovum donation and a need to gather more data about disclosure to offspring.

DESIGN: Retrospective descriptive study.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: IRB approval was obtained, and detailed questionnaires were sent to couples that had successfully undergone ovum donation at a large urban fertility center. Husbands and wives were asked to complete their questionnaires separately. Partners also completed a survey of psychosocial well-being. Results were analyzed using SPSS.

RESULTS: Completed questionnaires were returned by 85 parents. Demographic data were obtained. Parents reported on a total of 67 children (15 sets of twins and 2 sets of triplets). Twenty-nine percent of children have had the means of conception disclosed to them, and another 57.6% of mothers plan on disclosing sometime in the future. When asked why they chose egg donation over other parenting options, couples responded that the pregnancy and birth experience as well as the father's genetic link to the child were the primary reasons. More mothers (87.5%) endorsed the genetic link than did fathers (78.4%). Over 37% of mothers using an anonymous donor reported that they would have preferred a known donor, or would like to meet their donor. Half the mothers stated they would like to have a picture of their donor (versus 27% of fathers). More mothers (68%) than fathers (44.4%) reported thinking about the donor and donation process during pregnancy as well as thinking more about the means of conception as their children grow older. The reasons provided for parents' decision to disclose (now or in the future) were the child's right to know (77%) and wanting to be open and honest with their children (73%). Mothers reported that the primary reason not to disclose was that there is no reason to tell. All subjects stated that they would recommend ovum donation to others as a parenting option. The average age of the children who have had the means of conception disclosed to them was 5.8 years. Most mothers (91%) reported having been the person who actually disclosed the information, and 69% of mothers also reported having been the only one present during the disclosure. Parents were asked to describe the emotions their children expressed after the disclosure. Mothers reported that their children expressed higher levels of curiosity and surprise rather than anger, sadness, or disappointment. Parents expressed relief rather than sadness or anxiety following the disclosure. All disclosing parents stated that they had no regrets about having shared the information with their children.

CONCLUSION: Parents do not appear to "forget" about the donor. The trend within the mental health community is to encourage parents to disclose the means of conception to their children, but there has been little research into what the experience has been for parents and children alike. This preliminary data suggest that parents who have told their children felt that it was in the best interest of the child and that it was a positive experience that they would recommend to others. This type of research data