



Alpha Fertility

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Egg Donor Handout

INTRODUCTION

This handout is intended for women considering donating oocytes (eggs) to an infertile couple at Alpha Fertility. It is a step-by-step through the process of egg donation with explanation of techniques used and answers most of the questions that commonly arise during treatment. Read this booklet carefully and refer to it often during your treatment cycle. If you are unclear about anything, please do not hesitate to ask call @ 1 630 427 0309. We are always happy to assist and answer any of your questions.

Who Needs Donated Eggs?

Causes that couples may seek donor eggs are:

- Premature ovarian failure
- Poor ovarian response to stimulation medications
- Absence of the ovaries
- Carriers of a genetic disorder
- Ovarian failure due to a chemotherapy and/or radiation treatment

Who Donate Eggs?

Fertile healthy women at reproductive age between 18-35, preferably who had children naturally. Egg donors have no continuing responsibility to any child born following egg donation.

How is a donor matched to an intended parent?

Donor profile is given a unique identifier and all profiles are posted on the website without revealing the identity of the donor. When a couple picks a donor we contact her and start the screening process for hormonal levels, infectious, hereditary disease and drug use

Ovarian Stimulation

A Donor cycle typically includes the following steps or procedures:

- 1- Medications to grow multiple eggs
- 2- Retrieval of eggs from the ovaries

What will happen?

Many treatment protocols include oral contraceptive pills to be taken for 2 to 4 weeks before injections are started in order to suppress hormone production and synchronize with the recipient. You will usually take a GnRH analog via injection (Lupron®, Antagon® or Cetrotide®) to suppress your own hormones. This is termed ***controlled ovarian hyperstimulation***

You will be instructed to self-administer injectable medications, including gonadotropins (Follistim®, Gonal-F®, Repronex®, Menopur®, Bravelle®, Luveris® or other brand names) and human chorionic gonadotropin (Profasi®, Novarel®, Pregnyl®, Ovidrel®), which are intended to stimulate the ovaries to produce more than one egg. You may also be taking antibiotics.

The progress in development of eggs will be monitored by blood tests and ultrasounds which are performed early in the morning over the course of several days.

When the hormone levels and follicles are ready, you will be instructed to administer a single IM injection of hCG, this is used to finalize the process of egg maturation. It is usually given 34-36 hours before the egg retrieval. This is time sensitive and timing must be precise

Eggs are collected from the ovary using a transvaginal ultrasound, when the ovulation process is at the appropriate stage as determined by the assisted reproductive technology medical staff of Alpha Fertility. A long needle, which can be seen on ultrasound, can be guided into each follicle and the contents aspirated. Anesthesia is generally used to reduce if not eliminate discomfort.

You must have someone pick you up and drive you home after the procedure is completed. We advise that you go home and rest the remainder of the day. Please be advised to abstain from sexual intercourse until you have your period since you are at a higher risk to conceive. You may experience some vaginal bleeding. This should subside after a few hours.

What can go wrong?

- 1- The cycle may be cancelled due to **poor response**; we shall re-evaluate the cycle and make suggestions for improvement for future cycles.
- 2- The cycle may be cancelled due to **ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome** If there is a high count of follicles and high hormone levels

Acceptance in the program

Before you are accepted into the program, you are asked to meet with a counselor. We provide this counselor to you at no charge. This is an opportunity to consider whether you want to proceed and also a time to ask questions and clarify for yourself what donation will actually mean for you, your partner and your family. Important areas need to be explored such as the boundaries of your own responsibility as a donor.

Detailed consent form for the procedure and side effects shall be signed prior to enrollment

Payment

You will receive a check on the day of your retrieval for your time and energy. The recipients and the staff of Alpha Fertility truly appreciate this gift you have given.