

## DONOR INSEMINATION (DI)

Donor insemination (DI) involves the insertion of semen obtained from a donor into the uterus of the woman in order to achieve a pregnancy. Donor semen is stored in liquid nitrogen and is thawed on the day of your procedure. The procedure is simple and painless, taking approximately 15 minutes. Most women describe the procedure as similar to a pap smear. The insemination is usually performed by your IVF Doctor or an IVF Nurse Co-ordinator. The woman can then return to her normal daily activities. Once pregnancy occurs, it is no different from a pregnancy conceived naturally. There is no increase in any of the complications of pregnancy or delivery because of the insemination procedure.

It is estimated approximately 1 in 25 males are unable to father a biological child for numerous medical or genetic reasons. 1 in 8 couples seeking infertility assistance will require a sperm donor to achieve a pregnancy. When faced with a diagnosis of male infertility, a couple may consider a variety of choices including:

- Donor insemination
- Adoption –however there are few children available and long waiting lists
- Remain childless and concentrate on developing their lives and interests

Donor insemination has the advantage that half the genetic make-up of the child comes from the mother. It allows the couple to experience not only the raising of a child but also the pregnancy and childbirth.

Treatment with thawed semen in women with at least one functioning fallopian tube demonstrated approximately 50-60% of women will conceive within 6-9 cycles of treatment. This reflects what happens normally for fertile couples.

City Fertility Centre operate an active Donor Sperm Program where both clinic recruited and known sperm donations are available. Sometimes due to the shortage of clinic recruited donated sperm, potential recipients may choose to recruit their own donor to reduce the waiting time to undertake treatment. Please contact the IVF Nurse Co-ordinators if you require further information.

### WHO NEEDS DONOR SPERM?

- When the husband/ partner is azoospermic (no sperm produced)
- When the husband/partner is a carrier of a hereditary disease
- When the husband/partner has HIV
- When the partner is unable to produce sperm
- Donor sperm can be used in conjunction with insemination, In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) and Intra-Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI)

### WHERE DO DONORS COME FROM?

- Known donors (where a husband's brother, relative or friend donates their sperm)
- Clinic recruited donors - men who donate to the clinic and the clinic allocates the sperm to the recipient couple

### DONOR PREREQUISITES:

To become a donor, the following pre-requisites and procedures will be followed by City Fertility Centre;

- Aged between 18 - 55 years of age
- Good health with no history of hereditary disease
- NOT be in a high risk HIV group.
- Some people within the community cannot donate because their lifestyle places them at greater risk of contracting disease that could infect the recipients and

any children conceived. To be accepted onto the donor program the donor must complete a lifestyle declaration.

- Men who are adopted cannot donate unless genetic family history is known.
- Have a normal semen analysis and semen must freeze and thaw successfully.
- Have screening blood tests including HIV, HTLV 1, Hepatitis B&C, venereal diseases, Blood Group and genetic testing for Cystic Fibrosis and Chromosomes.
- Marital status: If married or in a defacto relationship, the wife/partner must consent to the donation. It is only if divorced this is not required.
- To overcome the window period of incubation of HIV, sperm is frozen and stored for six months. Before the donated semen can be released for supply, the donor must have a repeat HIV and Hepatitis B&C blood test. If the second test is clear, the semen can be released for use in the Donor Sperm Program.

### SELECTING AN ALTRUISTIC DONOR FOR A COUPLE:

Due to very few sperm donors being available, it may not be possible to match the physical characteristics of the sperm donor with the recipient's husband/partner. We allow you to choose a donor from our donor list. You will be given non-identifying information including nationality, ethnic origin, blood group, physical characteristics (height, build, eye colour, hair colour and skin tone) of the donor. The recipient/couple can then decide if they are happy to accept sperm from that donor. The aim is to have children who do not look out of place in their families.

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Under Australian legislation, the woman giving birth is the legal mother of any child born. The recipient couple is financially and legally responsible for the child no matter what. Additionally the recipient couple shall have full

custodial and parental rights to the child. The sperm donor has no legal rights to the child.

City Fertility Centre follow national guidelines as recommended by The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC 2004) regarding sperm donation. At any time the sperm donor may vary or withdraw their consent to donation as long as embryos have not been created. Withdrawal of consent should be in writing to the Program Manager at City Fertility Centre. If consent is revoked, City Fertility Centre will dispose of any remaining sperm.

Under the "Human Tissue Act" in Queensland the donated gametes (egg, sperm or embryo) cannot be bought or sold. There is no legislation at this time to keep national or state registers of all pregnancies and births resulting from donor gametes (egg, sperm or embryo). However City Fertility Centre keep an internal register linking all donor couples and recipient couples and resulting offspring (identifying and non identifying information) which may be cross referenced through a code.

There is no guarantee that the sperm collected will result in a pregnancy, even if you have had previous pregnancies and children.

Sperm donors are legally entitled to know that their sperm have achieved a pregnancy, live birth, sex of the child and whether there were any birth abnormalities. Donors often request this information. Donors and/or their partners have the right to withdraw their consent at any time.

## RELEASE OF IDENTIFYING DETAILS

As from October 2005, it is a national requirement that children born from the use of donor gametes (egg, sperm or embryo) have the right to access their genetic parents upon the age of consent or, when the child has acquired sufficient maturity to appreciate the significance of the request, through a medical practitioner or an appropriately qualified health professional.

City Fertility Centre allows the following information to be supplied to the donor conceived person including;

- All medical and family history information
- Identifying information about the donor
- The number and sex of persons conceived using the sperm the donor has donated, the number of families involved, and any identifying information that these siblings have consented to being released.

Within QLD, donation can only be facilitated in circumstances where the child can know their genetic parents. All donor and recipient couples must be in agreement of this clause for treatment to proceed at City Fertility Centre.

Disclosure of donor identifying information will only occur with the donor's written consent.

A donor can donate until the number of children generated reaches the limit of 10 families.

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*your partners in life*

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