

Sperm Donation

Sperm donation is a way of resolving male infertility if the male partner does not wish to undergo procedures such as PESA or TESA or his testes have been surgically removed or damaged by radiotherapy or chemotherapy for cancer. Some fathers may also not wish to use their own semen for genetic reasons. Sperm donation can also be used by single women wishing to conceive. Unlike most of the reproductive technologies described, sperm donation is an old form of treatment dating back 100 years or more. The Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority (HFEA) regulates the use of donor sperm.

Fertility Design Clinic is cooperating with recognized and licensed donor banks. Sperm donors are carefully screened for infectious disease, including HIV and Hepatitis B/C and CMV. Donors have their chromosomes analyzed and a full medical consultation as well as counselling. They come from all walks of life.

Prospective parents can choose the appropriate physical characteristics from the panel of donors so that skin color, height, eye and hair color can be matched. At present, the HFEA recommends that ethnicity or racial origin is matched. HFEA regulations are such that donors are not allowed to father children for more than 10 families. This means that the chance of a boy and girl from different families both fathered by the same donor meeting, marrying and having children is extraordinarily small, and probably rather less than winning the lottery! Parents may use the same donor to provide a brother or sister following a successful pregnancy.

Ideally sperm donors should have fathered their own children and they must have good quality sperm. However there can be no guarantee of fertility and on rare occasions the thawed sperm sample is sub-optimal in quality. Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) can be used to assist fertilization if the donated sperm is being used in an IVF cycle.

Men donors who are fulfilling the appropriate criteria (good mobility of sperm, good number, good morphology, according to World Health Organization criteria), can donate their sperm. The candidates are provoking into a series of examination to be improved that everything is normal and healthy. Respecting to the legislation, there is an aging scale (a maximum age often around 40 or 50 years) that is usually set, in order to avoid indications of inferior quality sperm.

Finally it is important to underlie a controversy towards the ovum donation; sperm donation and according to the Greek legislation, the candidate donor may be either anonymous or known to the recipient. Donations that are accomplished and offered to a known recipient are called direct. The person who wants to become a sperm

donor is important to know that there is no risk for his health, which is associated with the process. The reward, of course, is so much as covers the time spent by the donor. Most sperm banks set a limit on the number of children who can be born with the help of the same donor. However, criteria vary from bank to bank and country to country.