

### ***About Donor Egg Programs(#11)***

If you are considering using donor eggs, ask the following questions before starting in a program.

#### **MEDICAL FACTORS FOR THE RECIPIENT**

- ❑ All recipients, regardless of age should have a complete blood count, blood tests for HIV, hepatitis B and C, cytomegalovirus, rubella, toxoplasmosis and RH factor before starting a donor egg cycle.
- ❑ Do you have any health problems that would be affected by a pregnancy such as cardiovascular disease? Are you on prescription medication, etc?
- ❑ If you are over 40 and are considering the donor egg options, make sure that you have a current electrocardiogram, mammogram, glucose tolerance test and chest film.
- ❑ Have you talked to an obstetrician about the risks relating to pregnancy, labor and delivery for women in your age category?
- ❑ Have you discussed the risks of multiple births, which is quite high with donor eggs?
- ❑ Have you asked about the miscarriage rate after embryo transfer?
- ❑ Has your husband or partner's semen been tested lately?
- ❑ Will the clinic use estrogen and progesterone to prepare the endometrium lining of your uterus. Will the clinic require a mock cycle first? Which type of estrogen is used?

#### **LEGAL PREPARATION**

- ❑ Has a written contract been negotiated? Specifics such as what to do with "extra" embryos, freezing embryos and paternal rights should all be clearly defined.

#### **PSYCHOLOGICAL PREPARATION**

- ❑ Have you gone for couple counseling to discuss the donor egg option?
- ❑ Is counseling provided for the donor?
- ❑ Is counseling provided for the donor's husband?
- ❑ Does the donor have children already? Has she discussed ovum donation with her children? If not, has she considered ramifications if later when she wants her own family, infertility is an issue?
- ❑ Is the donor aware of the need for ovulation induction and associated possible risks/complications?

- ❑ Is the donor aware that if there are extra embryos they may be frozen for later use?
- ❑ Is the donor aware that should you decide to, the frozen embryos in storage could be destroyed, donated to research or donated to another couple?
- ❑ If the donor has a history of breast or ovarian cancer in her family, is she aware of the possible increased risk of developing cancer from using ovulation drugs?
- ❑ Have you decided about an amniocentesis? It may not be necessary if the donor is under 34 years old.
- ❑ Have you discussed the secrecy or openness issue relative to telling the child? Who, if anyone, will you tell that you are considering or trying this option?

#### **DONOR SELECTION AND EGG QUALITY, etc.**

- ❑ Who are the donors if anonymous?
- ❑ Are donors used legal residents of the United States?
- ❑ What is the age of the donor?
- ❑ Does the clinic allow you to use the donor you bring into the program or do they require that you do a cross exchange (the eggs from the donor you bring in are put into the pool and you go to the top of the list to receive an anonymous egg)?
- ❑ Are eggs taken from infertility patients?
- ❑ How many times can a donor be used?
- ❑ Is the donor tested for the AIDS virus, CMV, hepatitis A and B, chlamydia, venereal disease, syphilis, serum karotyping and blood type and day 3 FSH? Is a drug screen done on the donor?
- ❑ If you are using a donor from a donor egg matching program, and the donor has been tested by them, will the IVF clinic require additional or duplicate testing at their lab?
- ❑ Are all eggs from one donor used for one recipient or are the eggs split between recipients? If they are split how are they divided? Is there a primary and secondary recipient?
- ❑ How many eggs are guaranteed a recipient and, if there are less, is the fee reduced?
- ❑ How long are medical records kept on the donor? Is the donor aware that, as in adoption, laws may change that could allow the child access to information about the donor at a specific age?
- ❑ Does the clinic maintain contact with the donor? This is important if you think you would want to use the donor again in the future. By maintaining contact, the clinic can monitor the health status of the donor as well.

#### **Additional questions to consider if you are using a known or designated donor:**

- ❑ Do you and the donor have separate legal counseling?
- ❑ What kind of relationship do you and your partner expect to have with the donor and have you discussed it with her?

- ❑ What kind of relationship do you expect the donor to have with the child and have you discussed that with her?
- ❑ Have you discussed your feelings about having an amniocentesis with the donor and have you discussed what to do if the test results indicate a problem with the fetus?

## CHOOSING THE CLINIC

- ❑ Ovum donation requires using IVF, ask if the IVF clinic you are considering is a member of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine's Special Interest Group for Assisted Reproductive Technologies? (Consumer can call ASRM at 205-978-5000 to find out.)
- ❑ What are the live birth rates from the donor-egg program you are interested in? See the CDC 2001 Assisted Reproductive Technology Success Rates: National Summary and Fertility Clinic Reports for birth rate figures. Access the report through [www.resolve.org](http://www.resolve.org).
- ❑ Does the clinic have its own egg donor pool? What information is shared with the recipient about the donor?
- ❑ Do recipients have any choice about donor selection?
- ❑ Clarify what type of screening and counseling is done for egg donors.
- ❑ What are the costs? Do you have to pay the full amount if the donor doesn't stimulate well, if few eggs are obtained or fertilization is poor?
- ❑ What, if anything, is covered by health insurance?
- ❑ Does the clinic freeze extra embryos?

*Further information on this topic is available through RESOLVE fact sheets. For a publications order form, go online to [www.resolve.org](http://www.resolve.org). You can also contact RESOLVE Headquarters at 1760 Old Meadow Rd, Ste 500, McLean, VA 22102 or 703.556.7172.*

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