



Midland Fertility Services

Egg Donation



‘Building futures,
transforming lives’

Any woman who considers donating her eggs deserves a big 'thank you'. There is a great demand for egg donation throughout the country and Midland Fertility Services has many women waiting for the chance to have a baby from donated eggs. This booklet contains information about egg donation and what it involves.

Why is egg donation needed?

There are several reasons why a woman may want to consider using someone else's eggs to help her become pregnant. Some women stop ovulating or ovulate only occasionally. Other women may never have had periods. This may be because of a genetic condition such as Turner's syndrome or because for an unknown reason their ovaries have not developed properly. Many women who require egg donation have started the menopause and some may have done this in their early twenties or even in their teens.

Egg donation is also used for genetic problems when there is a chance that a genetic disorder could be passed on to a child. These problems include disorders such as haemophilia, Huntington's Chorea and Duchenne's muscular dystrophy. The woman may decide to use donated eggs rather than risk the possibility of having a child who may be very handicapped or who may die at an early age.

Some women may have had several attempts at IVF without success. This may be because she cannot produce enough healthy eggs and the only way she may be able to have a baby is by using eggs from a donor.

What happens to donated eggs?

MFS does not recruit egg donors to use their eggs for research as the clinic believes that eggs are precious and should only be used to try and

make another woman pregnant. The clinic tries to match donors characteristics such as ethnicity, height, hair and eye colour to those of the recipient.

Embryos created from donor eggs may be frozen and then used in the future. The donor will be asked to return to MFS six months after the egg collection for a further blood test.

Do donors remain anonymous?

On 1 April 2005 the law regarding donor identity changed and any child born as a result of eggs donated after this date has the right to information about the identity of the donor when they reach 18. However, this is dependent on the child being aware that they were conceived with donor eggs and actively tracing their biological mother via the HFEA. The earliest 18 year olds will be able to do this will be in 2023.

The recipient of donor eggs will continue to have access only to non-identifying information about the donor – usually hair colour and eye colour – unless the child chooses to share information regarding the identity of the donor after they reach the age of 18.

Who will be the legal parents of any resulting child?

The woman receiving donor eggs and any partner will be the legal parents, although the donor will be the genetic parent of any child born. The donor will have no legal obligation to any resulting child unless she has deliberately passed on a disease.

What does treatment involve?

Before beginning any treatment all potential donors' CMV status is checked and they are screened for hepatitis B and C and HIV viruses.

MFS also measures ovarian function and checks if potential donors carry the gene for Cystic Fibrosis. MFS cannot accept any donor who carries this gene. All donors are offered independent counselling for themselves and their partners. This is a good opportunity to talk over all aspects of donating eggs, including how a donor may feel about the possibility of someone else carrying her genetic offspring.

The donor will be asked to sign various consent forms, giving her permission for MFS to use her eggs to try and make another woman pregnant. The treatment itself involves taking two different types of drugs. The first can be either sniffed or injected over approximately three weeks. Then the donor will start a series of injections to stimulate her ovaries to produce more follicles than she normally would. MFS needs to find out how the donor's ovaries are reacting to the treatment, using a combination of blood tests and ultrasound scans.

Are there any side effects to the drugs?

There is no drug that is absolutely safe and completely free of side effects but with the doses of drugs used, the donor should notice few. The first drug buserelin, is designed to stop the donor's ovaries working temporarily and so has an effect rather like that of the menopause. This may bring about hot flushes, night sweats or mood swings, but most women get few or no side effects and when the second drug is started, any problems should disappear as the ovaries begin to work again.

What if the donor changes her mind?

The donor will be asked at each visit how she feels about the treatment and if at any point during the course she feels unsure about

continuing, that is fine. The donor should never feel that she has to continue with something with which she is uncomfortable. When the donor begins treatment, she is assigned to a fertility nurse who will look after her care at MFS. She can contact the nurse at any time to discuss any aspects of the treatment programme .

Do donors get paid?

In the UK the HFEA, which governs all licensed fertility clinics, does not allow payment to be made to egg donors. However they may receive reasonable expenses.

How are the eggs collected?

Using ultrasound scanning for guidance, a fine needle is passed through the back of the vagina and into the ovary. This procedure usually takes 30 - 45 minutes. It may be uncomfortable but is eased with local anaesthetic and a sedative; further pain relief is available if needed. As a result of the painkilling drugs, the donor will be unable to drive or go to work on the day of egg recovery, and she will need to bring someone with her on the day.

What happens after egg collection?

After egg collection a donor's treatment is complete. She may need some medicines to help her ovaries get back to normal, but her fertility nurse will discuss this with her at the time. A donor normally returns to MFS a week after the egg collection to make sure that everything is back to normal.

Can a donor find out the results of the treatment?

About twelve months after the egg donation, MFS is able to tell the donor if any pregnancy was achieved with her eggs.

List of Services

- In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF)
- Intra Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI)
- Surgical Sperm Recovery (PESA/TESA)
- Embryo Freezing
- Blastocyst Culture
- Intrauterine Insemination (IUI)
- Sperm Storage
- Assisted Hatching
- Egg Freezing
- Egg Donation
- Egg Sharing
- Tubal Patency Testing
- Fertility Investigation Package
- Phospholipid Auto-antibody Screen
- Sperm Analysis
- Recurrent Miscarriage Investigations
- Genetic Screening
- Ovarian Reserve Testing
- Vasectomy Reversal Back-Up

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