



IFS VISION

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INDIAN FERTILITY SOCIETY

www.indianfertilitysociety.org

email: indianfertilitysociety@gmail.com

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President's Message



Dear Friends,

The internet has emerged as the most powerful and fast method of communication. As medical professionals we are gradually learning to make use of this for our upliftment. This e- bulletin IFS – Vision is one such attempt. One of our early initiatives, this has been consistently brought to you by our web editors. Do talk about this to your friends.

Very shortly we shall be starting our series of webinars on infertility and we plan to make this a regular feature through our website. Please look out for the dates on the website. The website will also be uploading important lectures, orations and keynote addresses of FERTIVISION 2014. If you are a member, log on to the members area for an access to all this wonderful information. If you are still not a member, download the form from this website and become one! We will also be connecting our journal to this website so that you can take a look at this great initiative of our society.

The IFS initiated the first multi specialty recommendations in India this year. The full version of the Good Clinical Practice Guideline for management of PCOS in India is available on this website and can be downloaded from here. We do hope you will engage yourself in all these academic activities of IFS.

Wishing you all a very happy new year!

Sonia Malik

From the Desk of the Web Editor...



Dear Members,

This issue marks the first IFS Vision with the new office bearers in place. IFS has been very active academically and the activities done in past 6 months have been enlisted. We have discussed issues on surrogacy with members viewpoints being put down. This issue also raises the point on insurance coverage for ART banks and we would like your view points

The annual IFS conference Fertilvision 2014 at Pune from the 19th -21st Dec is going to be a platform for discussion of recent advances and we hope to see you there!

With Best Wishes

Dr Surveen Ghumman Sindhu

READER'S PAGE

Viewpoints on Legal, Ethical and Regulatory Issues

Dear Readers,

The last issue discussed controversies like whether same sex couples and single couples come under the definition of infertility and is insurance coverage justified for ART in these situations in countries which cover infertility with insurance? Should fertility preservation be insurance covered in treatment of cancer patients?

Last issue asks the following question which have the view points of experts & readers

Question: A sister or mother can be a surrogate for a sister or daughter. A sister being a surrogate for her brother raises strong ethical questions What are your views keeping this case in mind?

Opinion On These Issues....



*Dr Sushma Sinha
Joint Secretary, IFS*

Question: A sister or mother can be a surrogate for a sister or daughter. A sister being a surrogate for her brother raises strong ethical questions What are your views?

Yes, I see nothing wrong if a sister acts as a gestational surrogate for her brother. It would not be considered an incest because the sister is not a biological mother of her brother's child. It is not a traditional surrogacy as in this case eggs have been provided by a third person, not by his sister. She would just be carrying the baby like an oven for a bun. What is wrong if Mr Solomon is both the father and the uncle of the little boy? When we have, without any doubt, accepted the fact that a woman's sister or mother can act as a surrogate for her sister or daughter when commissioned, knowing very well that the relationships would get complicated then why are subjecting this case to scrutiny? The initial investigation of the police leading to the conclusion that no incest has been committed should not raise any further question. In my opinion seeking a further detailed investigation into the issue is useless.



*Dr Maninder Ahuja
Member, IFS*

Question: A sister or mother can be a surrogate for a sister or daughter. A sister being a surrogate for her brother raises strong ethical questions What are your views?

My opinion here is, ethically it appears wrong but, legally and medically no problem as genetic parents are from different sources and of course no incest. When we are into third party reproduction lots of these issues are going to arise and circumstances and opinion of clinician may be deciding factor.

RECENT RESEARCH

Intravaginal Incubation of Embryos - A safe effective and economical Innovation

Center for Assisted Reproduction in Bedford, Texas have found that a device for incubating embryos in a patient's vagina is as safe and effective as incubator culture for embryos as part of IVF with and without ICSI (intracytoplasmic sperm injection). 10 eggs per patient were placed into the INVOcell device or moved on the next stage of traditional incubator culture. After five days of culture, patients from both groups had embryos transferred to their uteruses. Similar pregnancy rates were found between the groups. Another study by researchers at the Colombian Fertility and Sterility Center (CECOLFES) in Bogota showed that INVOcell vaginal embryo culture gave a pregnancy rate of 38% per cycle. This method would reduce some of the laboratory costs and lead to wider availability of treatment.

Live birth from successful cryopreservation of complete ovary

So far only fragments of ovary have been preserved and transplanted, which contain only a fraction of a woman's ovarian reserve, and provides the recipient with a relatively brief fertile window before the supply of oocytes contained within their graft is used up. This is the first time that a whole organ from an adult large mammal, sheep, has been successfully frozen, transplanted and produced immediate results. Using a new method, a Planer controlled rate freezer and different post operative regimes, Prof Campbell at Nottingham restarted 100% of the ovarian function and produced high rates of natural fertility in his sheep: pregnancy rate 64%; live birth rate 29%.

Freezing and subsequent transplantation require successful cryo-preservation of both the ovary and its vascular supply. Work to date has not been so successful as the follicular survival rate in the grafted ovaries was just 1.7%–7.6%. What has been discovered by Nottingham team is that the duration of cryo-protectant perfusion was highly significant and that the degree of this penetration and the maintenance of post-operative vascular viability were the critical determinants of success.

ETHICS & ART

Surrogacy – Need to protect child's right

Recently an Australian couple refused to take responsibility of one of the twins born through surrogacy as they had a gender preference. There was a case in Thailand where Gammy a baby boy was abandoned as he had Down's syndrome. However, this case in India child was abandoned because of a gender preference, something which India has been trying to fight for years through PNDT. This brings one to think about the legal and ethical issues concerned with such an act.

In this whole issue, the surrogate's right has been maintained, the commissioning parents have taken what they wanted. What has been breached is, the child's right. According to ART guidelines a child born from surrogacy is the legal heir of the genetic parents. In that situation the child has the right to the wealth of his genetic parents and must be given maintenance for his/her bringing up by his parents. We need to protect these children legally before we start their process of conception.

Question: *Considering that the child born through surrogacy is the legal heir of its genetic parents, should a legal agreement binding parents to give maintenance for child's bringing up, in case they do not adopt the child, be a prerequisite to surrogacy? The person or agency adopting the child would be getting this and it would be spent on the child.*

Sperm bank burgled- News maybe wrong but brings forth legal issues

In August 2014, a news item in TOI regarding sperm bank burglary from an IVF centre in Delhi came out in the newspaper. The news that some semen samples were stolen was later declared wrong and officials clarified that supplies are missing, not human biological products. However this news item did bring forth a question on legal liability of ART banks and centres storing sperms, oocytes and embryos and their responsibility in case of burglary, fire or natural calamity like earthquakes where these

samples can be lost. The consent form for cryopreservation of sperms, oocytes and embryos does not state any protection against the same if they occur .

Question: *Should IVF banks and centres storing embryos and sperms have a insurance against burglary, fire or natural calamities or a statement protecting them in the consent form in case these situations occur and frozen samples are lost?*

Legal custody of frozen embryos given to woman cancer survivor despite male partners's objections – A Landmark Judgement

An Illinois county court has granted a woman control over embryos created with her ex-partners's sperm, despite his objection to their use. Karla Dunston's former partner, Jacob Szafranski, agreed to use his sperm to create embryos after Dunston was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, treatment which later left her infertile. However, after the relationship broke down, Szafranski said he no longer wanted the embryos to be used.

The court held that Dunston's desire to have a biological child in the face of the impossibility of having one without using the embryos outweighs Szafranski's privacy concerns. Dunston has assured the court that she is not asking for any financial support from her ex-partner, Szafranski. It sets a precedent which helps other women cancer survivors who find themselves in this heart-wrenching situation.

STATISTICS

Statistics reveal that UK sperm donors have 'fathered' more than ten children each

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has revealed that 504 sperm donors in the UK have between them 'fathered' more than 6,200 children. The figures indicate that each donor has biologically fathered children in at least ten separate instances. Furthermore, fifteen donors have successfully fathered twenty or more children. The data is drawn from records of IVF and other fertility treatments gathered by the HFEA from clinics across the UK. Current laws restrict the use of sperm from each donor to ten different families (excluding their own), however there is no limit set on the number of children born into each family. Estimates show that approximately 1,000 children are born every year in the UK with the help of sperm donation

NEWS

Dairy Intake Improves Reproductive Outcomes

A new research by Massachusetts General Hospital Fertility Center shows that consuming dairy foods can be advantageous for women undergoing IVF and for the health of embryos. Before undergoing IVF, women consuming the highest (more than three servings per day) amounts of dairy had a 21% greater chance of having a live birth than those consuming the least dairy (less than 1.34 servings per day). A study done at the University of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Hospital showed that a maternal diet rich in butter fat can ameliorate some of the harmful effects of bisphenol-A (BPA) exposure on embryos and result in better embryo development

Sunscreen and shampoos could cause infertility

Chemicals found in some sunscreens, shampoos and moisturizers may lead to infertility in men, a new study says. The preliminary study by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) New York found about 29 chemicals in a class called benzophenone-type ultraviolet filters could lead to delay in fertility for men. Researchers found that men with high exposure to UV filters BP-2 or 4OH-BP had a 30 percent reduction in fecundity, the biological ability to reproduce. But men who are concerned about fertility may be interested in other ways to reduce their exposure to benzophenone UV filters whether by cutting back on other products that contain the UV filters or by washing after returning indoors.

Italian court lifts ban on donated sperm and eggs in fertility treatment

Italy's constitutional court has lifted a ban on the use of donor sperm and egg for assisted conception (Law 40), saying it was 'unconstitutional' as the rule had denied a couple's will and desire to become parents. There are still issues around donor anonymity and the potential children's right to know the identity of their genetic parents which are to be decided. Italy's law 40 placed strict restrictions on those seeking IVF and artificial insemination, and fertility treatment is denied to same-sex couples and single people. Thousands of couples were considering a lawsuit against the State over damage they have suffered under law 40. A conservative estimate is that 4,000 sterile couples went abroad in 2012 for a donor.

Alcohol has an effect on semen quality

Drinking more than two pints alcohol a week could have negative effects on men's semen quality, a study has found. The higher the alcohol consumption that was reported by young Danish men, the lower the quality of their semen, reported the study, who recommend that young men avoid habitual drinking. Compared to men who reported drinking one to five units of alcohol a week, men who reported drinking more than 40 units of alcohol in a typical week (13 to 20 pints of beer) had a 33 percent reduction in sperm concentration. However, the team also found negative effects on semen quality in men drinking more than five units a week, with less sperm being produced, and more sperm of abnormal size and shape. Other lifestyle factors, such as poor diet or smoking, that might accompany alcohol consumption should be considered too.

Children born to women with infertility at greater risk of psychiatric disorders than those naturally conceived.

Children born to women with fertility problems have a 33% higher risk of psychiatric disorders than naturally conceived children stated a study by Danish Cancer Society Research Center at the University of Copenhagen. Statistically significant hazard ratios for specific groups of psychiatric disorders were found for schizophrenia and psychoses, affective disorders, anxiety and other neurotic disorders, mental and behavioural syndromes including eating disorders, mental retardation, mental development disorders including autism spectrum disorders, and behavioural and emotional disorders including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), when compared with rates in naturally conceived children. This study is the largest to date. It includes the highest number of children and a long enough follow-up time to adequately assess the risk into adulthood. The increased risks persists into adulthood.

Conferences and Events

National

1. Fertilisation 2014, Annual Conference of Indian Fertility Society to be held on 19th, 20th, 21st December 2014 at Hotel Hyatt Regency, Pune
2. 20th National Conference of Indian Society of Assisted Reproduction (ISAR) to be held from 10th to 12th April 2015 at Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai
3. Fertilisation 2015 Annual Conference of Indian Fertility Society to be held on 5th, 6th, 7th December 2015 at Hotel Ashok, Delhi

International

1. ESHRE Annual meet 15th to 17th June, Lisbon, Portugal Details on <http://www.eshre2015.eu>
2. Annual Meeting of the ASRM, October 17-21, 2015, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD, USA
For More Information: ASRM, Tel: 205-978-5000, Fax: 205-978

3. ASPIRE Regional Conference - Creating Social Awareness in Subfertility Lahore, Pakistan, 13-15 March 2015

IFS Activities

IFS - IUI workshop in Varanasi , May 2014. Dr Ritu Khanna was the local organizing Secretary. It was attended by approximately 40 delegates .



Intra uterine insemination training module organized at Bareilly on 31st august, 2014



CME on " Endometriosis - Current concepts and Management"organized by Dr Rashmi Sharma on 13.9.14 at Hotel City Park ,Pitampura under the aegis of IFS and Infertility /endometriosis committee of AOGD. It was attended by approximately 100 delegates



Seminar Organized by IFS state chapters at Raipur, Chathisgarh on 6th october.



IFS - IUI workshop in Dehradun, 12 october 2014 .Dr Sumita Prabhakar was the local organizing Secretary
It was attended by approximately 30 delegates .



IFS Connect – Zonal Conference on 16th Nov 2014 at Hotel Lalit, Delhi



Hands on IUI Workop in Gwalior at Dr.Verma Fertility Centre on 23/11/2014



Two Hands on Live Workshops on vitrification and Quality control /assurance were organized by the Dept of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Army Hospital (Research and Referral), New Delhi on August 13th and 21st November 2014.



SANOFI -IFS IUI 2014 Workshop

r.N o	Date	Place	Organising Secretary	IFS Faculty	Attendance
1	18th April 2014	Bhopal	Dr.Randhir Singh	Dr.Kuldeep Jain,Dr.Shewta Mittal	
2	25th May 2014	Varanasi	Dr.Ritu Khanna	Dr.Gouri Devi,Dr. Rashmi Sharma	33
3	27th July 2014	Mumbai	Dr.Rajan Vaidya	Dr.Kuldeep Jain,Dr.K.D Nayar	29
4	31st August 2014	Bareilly	Dr.Latika Agarwal	Dr.Abha Majumdar,Dr.Ila Gupta	79
5	12th October 2014	Dehradun	Dr.Sumita Prasad	Dr.Pankaj Talwar,Dr.Rashmi Sharma	49
6	23rd November 2014	Gwalior	Dr.Anju Verma	Dr.Shewta Mittal,Dr.Leena Wadhwa	65