

# *Turing to IVF*

## *Using an Egg Donor*

For couples facing infertility, in vitro fertilization (IVF) is a common route to conception. With recent advances in fertility research and IVF options, the use of donor eggs has become another alternative to be considered by prospective mothers. Increases in nation-wide donor egg banks such as [CLIENT NAME REMOVED] have made donor egg IVF a more common practice, and has made donor egg IVF more accessible to women. The use of donor egg IVF is even showing higher rates of success than traditional IVF treatment. If you are considering the use of an egg donor, there are some important facts to consider.

### WHO SHOULD CONSIDER DONOR EGG IVF?

Difficulty conceiving a child can happen for a number of reasons. Donor egg IVF may be recommended in the following situations:

- Age related infertility (common in women age 35 and over)
- Post-cancer treatment in which ovaries or eggs were damaged by treatment
- Repeated unsuccessful IVF treatments
- Low ovarian reserves
- Primary ovarian insufficiency
- Risk of genetic disease on the mother's side

# THE EGG DONOR PROCESS

## FINDING A DONOR

Fresh donor eggs may come from a friend, family member, or anonymous donor. Though the process of choosing an anonymous donor may vary slightly based on the fertility clinic or donor egg bank you choose, you will likely have the option of selecting a donor based on a variety of factors such as physical characteristics, level of education, ethnic background, and occupation. Donors are within peak fertility age—21 to 34 years old—and complete full genetic and health screening processes.

## SYNCING CYCLES

With the use of fresh donor eggs, it is required for you and the egg donor to sync your ovulation cycles. This is done through the use of synthetic hormones and birth control pills. This is done to ensure that your uterus is prepared to carry a child once the donor egg is fertilized and the embryo is implanted. Donors must take ovulation-inducing medication to ensure that a mature egg is produced, ensuring that women completing IVF treatments have a greater chance of successful pregnancy and live birth. Once eggs are mature, they are extracted from the donor for fertilization.

## FERTILIZATION AND TRANSFER

Like traditional IVF, your partner's sperm or sperm from a donor is used to fertilize the egg in a laboratory. Three to five days later, the fertilized eggs become embryos that are then transferred to the uterus. It is likely that only one or two embryos will be transferred to reduce the chance of twins or multiples.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

### GENETICS

Using a donor egg provides an opportunity for an intended mother to carry her own child. While the child will not be genetically linked to the mother, it still allows the child to maintain a biological connection to the mother, and a genetic link to the father (unless the couple chooses to use a sperm donor).

### RISK OF MULTIPLES

Because donor eggs are extracted from women at the height of fertility, and multiple embryos may be transferred into the intended mother to increase the odds of pregnancy, the chances of becoming pregnant with twins, triplets, etc., increases.

### FREEZING EMBRYOS

Once embryos are transferred to the intended mother, remaining embryos may be frozen and maintained for future pregnancies. This allows parents the option to have multiple pregnancies using the same egg donor.

### EMOTIONS

The journey of IVF treatment is one that comes with a wide range of emotions. Couples frequently experience emotions such as excitement, grief, hope, anxiety, and joy. Emotions can be fluid, changing quickly and frequently throughout the journey.

## A BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY

Struggling with infertility is a common challenge for growing families. However, with modern advances in the field of reproductive technology, intended mothers have more opportunities than ever to have a successful pregnancy! Donor egg IVF is one of these advancements. It has gained rapid popularity in recent years with more mothers turning to nationwide donor egg banks and fertility centers to help start a family. With growing success rates, donor egg IVF is a treatment that should not be overlooked for perspective parents!