

Ovum Donation : A novel approach of optimizing results by egg sharing

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**Manish Banker, Pravin Patel, Bharat Joshi, Tejas Dave, Priti Shah,
Manish Shah, Sujal Munshi, Parita Pandya**

Introduction : There is an increasing demand for Ovum donation (OD) with a paucity and social barrier in finding egg donors. Most common indications for OD are patients with premature ovarian failure (POF), perimenopausal women and poor responders. We initiated a programme of professional egg donation with sharing of eggs amongst 1 or more recipients. Data generated at our clinic from Jan.2004 to Dec.2006 was compared to that of dedicated donors during the same period.

Methods :

79 professional donors were recruited and underwent standard ovarian stimulation using the long [11], short [58] or the antagonist [10] protocol. The average age of the donor was 27.7 years and an average of 14 eggs [range 3 to 32] were retrieved. A total of 169 recipients cycles [2.1 per donor] were carried out from this, the average age of recipient being 37 years. All recipients were prepared with estradiol valerate with down regulation when needed. Minimum 5 eggs were given to each recipient and the average embryos / ET was 2.9. During the same period, 42 dedicated donors [avg. age 28.4 yrs] stimulated by long [20] or short [22] protocol and an average of 8.8 eggs were retrieved. 42 recipient transfer cycles [avg age 35.4 yrs] were carried out with average 3.0 embryos transferred per ET. Pregnancy was defined as β hCG of 100 mIU / ml or more 15 days after ET.

In the professional donor cycles, the cost of ovarian stimulation was divided equally amongst all recipients.

Results :

The pregnancy outcome in both the groups were comparable : 61 / 169 [36 %] in the professional donor group and 19 / 42 [45 %] in the dedicated donor group. However, the pregnancy per professional donor is 61 / 79 [77 %]. The incidence of multiple pregnancy - twins [21 % and 16 %], 3 triplets [4.9 % and 10 %] , abortions [14.7 % and 21 %] and ectopics [6.5 % and 5.2 %] was comparable. Number of cycles resulting in embryo cryopreservation is higher in the professional donor group [and 50 %].

Conclusions :

This study shows that sharing of eggs from donor helps twice the number of recipients per donor without compromising the pregnancy rate. Also, by sharing the cost of stimulation, the total cost of treatment is reduced.