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Long Term Effects of Ovum Donation on Donors

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Long Term Effects of Ovum Donation on Donors
Danielle Garfunkel, Andrea Braverman

Introduction: As infertility affects 17% of couples, IVF has become a key, increasingly prevalent option for couples with oocyte donors providing eggs to infertile women in ~13.7% of IVF cycles. Despite the growing prevalence of donation, there are no long-term follow up studies on the emotional and health effects of donation. We cannot appropriately counsel patients regarding the risks of the donation procedure without understanding its effects.

Objective: This study sets out to identify the long-term effects of oocyte donation on donors' mental state and physical health and how the attitudes and concerns of oocyte donors regarding their donation and towards their potential offspring evolve over a ten-year period.

Methods: We have developed a standardized online questionnaire to evaluate participants for our longitudinal study. Three participants to pilot our online questionnaire were recruited at various collaborator donor sites at the time of their donation.

Results: Overall, feedback from participants was positive and all participants found the survey easy to complete. Average time spent was 15 minutes. One respondent wished the survey had additional spaces to elaborate on responses. Response number was limited so individual analysis of responses cannot be done at this time.

Discussion: We were able to adjust our survey to elicit donor responses for our longitudinal study. This survey will serve as a standardized measure to evaluate donors going forward. This pilot is our first step to developing a better understanding of how attitudes of donors evolve over time and the long-term mental and physical effects of donation.