

Information for Oocyte Donor

Introduction

Thank you for expressing an interest in becoming an oocyte (egg) donor at the Family Fertility Center. Our program is directed by H. Christina Lee, M.D., J.D. She is board certified in both the specialties of Reproductive Endocrinology, and Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Eligibility

If you are between 18 to 31 years of age and are in good health you are encouraged to participate. Women of all ethnicities and races are welcome.

Overview

Oocyte donation requires that the donor be given hormones to increase the number of mature eggs normally released each month. These hormones are medications that need to be injected daily, and the use of these medications must be taught. The ovaries where the eggs reside are internal organs, and therefore a needle must be used to extract the mature eggs for purposes of harvesting. Donors are given medications to allow them to be sedated throughout this short procedure. Surgery is usually not involved, and bleeding is minimal. Menstrual cycles usually return to their normal pattern approximately 4 to 6 weeks after the procedure. There is believed to be no untoward effects on your future fertility or menstrual cycles.

The Screening Process

If you are interested to become an oocyte donor, you are required to complete an anonymous oocyte (egg) donor questionnaire. If a potential matched recipient is identified, further medical and/or psychological screening examinations are required. Most donors require 2 or 3 visits with our staff and 1 or 2 visits with a designated licensed psychological counselor or psychiatrist to complete this initial process. Applicants find the screening process a rewarding experience. Time is taken to help you explore your personal and family health history. You are informed of the results of all laboratory tests including genetic screening, blood count, infectious diseases screening, Pap smear and urine analysis. These tests are provided free of charge.

First visit: this visit usually takes place on the third day of a spontaneous menstrual cycle. You will be given four forms: Information for Oocyte Donor, Oocyte (Egg) Donor Risk Sheet, Consent to Participate in the Anonymous Oocyte Donation, and Anonymous Oocyte (Egg) Donor Questionnaire. You should take these forms home and review them thoroughly. A clinical staff speaks with you about our program. Time is taken to answer any and all questions that you may have about becoming an egg donor, explain the various medications and medical procedures required of donors going through an egg donation procedure, risks associated with oocyte donation will be discussed.

Blood sample will be drawn for ovarian reserve screening. This includes measurement of reproductive hormones: FSH, LH and estradiol. A pelvic ultrasound will be performed to assess the total number of small follicles you have on both ovaries.

You must complete, sign and return all four forms: Information for Oocyte Donor, Oocyte (Egg) Donor Risk Sheet, Consent to Participate in the Anonymous Oocyte Donation, and Anonymous Oocyte (Egg) Donor Questionnaire, along with a recent photo of you. Until these forms are completed and return, the process will not go forward. Once these forms are received, you file will be saved to the pool of available donors. Visits subsequent to this initial screening process will be required only if a well matched recipient

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couple is identified. If we do not contact you within a month or two, you are encouraged to contact us periodically to let us know you are still interested to donate.

Egg Donation Cycle

Once a matched recipient couple is identified, you will be contacted. Most likely you will be seen between day 2-3 of your menstrual cycle. At this visit the physician and/or nurse will further explain the process, obtain a focused history and perform a physical examination, including a pelvic examination and a Pap smear, if none was done within last 12 months. Blood, urine and cervical samples will be taken to screen for general health condition, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV testing, genetic diseases screening, chromosomal analysis and drug use screening. This visit lasts 30 to 60 minutes. Instructions in the use of medications and the procedural aspects of egg donation are discussed.

Separate visit(s) to a licensed psychological counselor or psychiatrist designated by our Center for a thorough psychological evaluation may be necessary.

All subsequent visits involve a vaginal ultrasound of the pelvis and blood test to evaluate the status of the eggs you will be donating. These visits usually take 30 minutes to complete. During this time you will also be asked to sign a consent form allowing us to receive your eggs and to perform the necessary procedure to extract the eggs.

Egg Aspiration

The day the eggs are ready to harvest you will need to spend a half a day at the Family Fertility Center. The eggs are removed from you using a needle placed under ultrasound guidance into each ovary. You will be sedated using medications to put you to sleep to accomplish the 20-30 minute procedure. Following the aspiration you will be recovered in the recovery room for 1 to 2 hours prior to being discharged. Since sedatives are administered, you will be required to have a friend or relative drive you home. You may have lower abdominal tenderness and bloating after the procedure. This may last for several weeks, but will usually disappear shortly following the menstrual period that occurs 1-2 weeks after the procedure.

Compensation

If you are accepted into our donor program you are entitled to be compensated. Compensation is provided for the time required in performing the duties of a donor. You are not selling us your eggs. Compensation payment is paid on the day of oocyte retrieval. You are functioning as an independent contract free agent, and are not employed by the physician, or staff at the Family Fertility Center. Therefore, you are not entitled to employment benefits, and **all risks of the procedure are assumed and accepted by you.** Furthermore, Family Fertility Center is required by law to report the compensation as your income on a 1099 Form. No income tax is withheld from this compensation for you because you are an independent contract free agent. You must set aside a portion of this compensation for your income tax.

Identity Release and Disclosure Policy

Egg donation will be performed anonymously. You may wish to be contacted in the future for medical emergencies whereupon you may serve as an organ donor to the offspring born as a result of your egg donation. The choice is yours.

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Legal Concerns

Presently no state statutes or case law exists regarding egg donors. Screening procedures and the conduct of the therapy is governed by guidelines established and approved by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, formerly the American Fertility Society. Since 2005, specific screening tests for sexually transmitted diseases are mandated by the Food and Drug Administration (F.D.A.) for all oocyte donors authorized by federal law, 21CFR Part 1271 for Human Cells, Tissues, and Cellular Based Products (HCT/P).

How to Begin

If you meet our criteria for eligibility and would like to be an anonymous egg donor, please complete and notarized the enclosed anonymous oocyte donor questionnaire. Return the questionnaire along with a recent photo to our office at 95 Highland Avenue, Suite #100, Bethlehem, PA 18017. If a potential matched recipient is identified, you will be contacted by our office for further medical and psychological screenings.

I, _____, hereby verify that I have read the above information pertaining to anonymous donation of oocytes. I further verify that all my questions have been answered satisfactorily.

Name

Signature

Date