What is Donor Insemination?

Donor Insemination is a fertility procedure, in which frozen donor sperm is thawed and inserted into a woman’s uterus, by Intra-Uterine Insemination (IUI), directly around the time of ovulation, in order to achieve a pregnancy.

What is involved in Donor Insemination?

Donor Insemination involves the insertion of semen, obtained from a donor, into the uterus of a woman in order to achieve pregnancy. The donor semen is stored in liquid nitrogen and is thawed on the day of the procedure. The insemination is usually carried out by your treating specialist or a fertility coordinator and will take approximately 15 minutes. Most women describe it to be simple and painless, similar to a pap smear. Normal daily activities can be resumed after the procedure.

Once pregnancy occurs, it is no different from a pregnancy conceived naturally. There is no increase in the complications of the pregnancy or delivery because of the insemination procedure.

WHO WILL REQUIRE DONOR SPERM?

Lesbian women (single/couple)
Gay male with male infertility
Transgender Individuals/couples
When is Donor Insemination not suitable?

Donor Insemination treatment is not recommended for:

- Women over 38–40 years of age
- Women with tubal blockage or severe tubal damage
- Women with severe endometriosis

Donor Program

To help individuals and couples in their attempt to become parents, the clinic runs a sperm donor program. Sperm donors are classified as either “known” or “unknown” depending on the type of relationship between donor and recipient.

Donor pre-requisites

What we look for in a clinic-recruited (unknown) donor

To ensure you receive the best quality and healthy sperm to increase your chances of conception and to eliminate any health risks associated to the donor sperm, the following pre-requisites are required from a donor:

- Must be aged between 18-45 (in Victoria: 21-45).
- Must be in good health with no history of hereditary disease. Donors will not be accepted if they suffer from an illness, disease or genetic condition that poses an unacceptable risk of being passed on to any child conceived from the donation.
- Have a low risk for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. Some people within the community cannot donate because their lifestyle places them at a greater risk of contracting diseases that could infect the recipients and any children conceived.
- To be accepted in the donor program, the donor must complete a lifestyle declaration.
- Women over 38-40 years of age
- Women with tubal blockage or severe tubal damage
- Women with severe endometriosis

Men who are adopted cannot donate, unless genetic family history is known.

Unknown donors must have a permanent address and be contactable for follow-up screening. They must be able to provide three identifiers and proof of permanent address, e.g. driver’s licence, photo ID or passport.

Clinic-recruited sperm donors with student, working holiday or temporary working visas will not be accepted to the program. Donors with temporary resident visas may be accepted to the program if they can provide evidence of these requirements.

If married or in a defacto relationship the wife/partner must consent to the donation. If the donor is divorced, then this is not required.

At the end of the six-month quarantine period, sperm donors are contacted to return for final screening tests (HIV, Hepatitis B and C, Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, CMV, Syphilis, HTLV-1/2) to allow clearance of the sperm for use.

Lesbian women or couples who are considering Donor Insemination will have to determine which type of sperm donor is right for them. For more information please visit the Donor Program page on our website: rainbowfertility.com.au

If you are looking at using a donor sperm for traditional surrogacy, please contact our friendly staff for more information on 1300 222 623

At Rainbow Fertility if you already have a “known” donor, we will be happy to work with him. Alternatively we will help you find a suitable donor from our clinic-recruited donors.

PLEASE NOTE:

- People wishing to have assisted reproductive treatment in Victoria must undergo a criminal records check and child protection order check.
- All treatment procedures are carried out in our RTAC (Reproductive Technology Accreditation Committee) accredited fertility clinics, where gametes (eggs/sperm) and embryos are also stored.

Selecting a clinic-recruited (unknown) donor

To help you decide which donor you would like to select you will be provided with non-identifying information about the donor, including: nationality, ethnic origin, blood group and physical characteristics (height, build, eye colour, hair colour and skin tone).

Key considerations

Listed below are some of the key factors you need to be aware of when undergoing Donor Insemination:

- Donor insemination has the advantage that half the genetic make-up comes from the mother. It allows lesbian women and couples to not only raise a child but also experience pregnancy and childbirth.

As per any medical procedure, there are some potential risks that come with the treatment. Whilst these risks are minimal, it is important for you to be aware of them and to keep an eye out for any unusual symptoms following the treatment. Remember you are not alone through this process, and if you have any concerns at all please contact your fertility coordinator.

INFECTION – this may be more common in women with a history of pelvic infection.

OVER STIMULATION – some women may experience an excessive response from their ovaries to the fertility drugs. Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome (OHSS) occurs in a minority group of women who over-respond. Symptoms include severe discomfort, nausea, vomiting, abdominal distension and dehydration.

It is important that the clinic is notified immediately if any of these symptoms occur during your treatment, as hospitalisation may be required.

MULTIPLE PREGNANCY – this has been shown to occur in up to ten per cent of women. If there are too many follicles seen on ultrasound prior to the Intra-Uterine Insemination (IUI) procedure, the risk of multiple pregnancy may be too high and the procedure may be cancelled.

FAILED PROCEDURE – in a small number of cases, it is not possible to place the catheter into position through the cervix and the sperm cannot be inserted into the uterine cavity.

What you need to be aware of when undergoing Donor Insemination

Screening-tests

All donors must undergo the following screening-tests:

- HIV
- HEPATITIS B AND C
- CMV
- Syphilis
- HTLV 1+2
- Blood Group
- Karyotype
- cystic fibrosis
- FXS
- SMA

Urine testing:

- Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea
- ETHNICALLY RELATED DISEASES (IF REQUIRED)
- FBC

Semen analysis

- semen analysis
- semen testing: M/C/S
Questions for Consideration

We would like you to take a moment to consider some of the factors that may influence the decisions you make in your journey towards parenthood with Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART).

Some of the things you may have to consider are:

• Relevant laws.

• Your feelings about creating a family with a known sperm donor or a clinic-recruited (unknown) donor. Think about your criteria for a donor and the role of the donor.

• If you are single, what are your feelings about being a single parent?

• If you are undergoing treatment as a lesbian couple you need to determine which partner will carry the pregnancy. For some couples this is clear, other couples need to negotiate this based on age, medical history and genetic factors.

• Your feelings about creating a family where only one partner will be a genetic parent.

• If the outcome is unsuccessful, will this have an impact on your relationship?

• Who to tell. Friends? Family? Work? You’ll need to decide who to tell what to and when.

• What about the possible offspring? What if they wish to contact the sperm donor? What if they want to know how the donor was chosen? Writing down how these decisions were made is one way to prepare for the number of questions that a child may have about his or her conception and genetic heritage.

Cost of treatment

As each treatment cycle is structured to suit individual needs, treatment costs will vary between patients depending on the level of treatment required.

Following your initial consultation with a Rainbow Fertility specialist, you will be given a booking for a complimentary pre-treatment information session with one of our experienced fertility coordinators and patient services administrators. All aspects of your fertility treatment, including the cost structure, will be discussed with you at this time. If you have any questions regarding treatment fees, Medicare and Private Health rebates prior to this, please do not hesitate to contact our friendly patient services team on: 1300 222 623 or email: info@rainbowfertility.com.au

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Rainbow Fertility encourages all individuals/couples to seek independent legal advice before taking part in the donor program.

For more information please visit: rainbowfertility.com.au or call 1300 222 623

An initiative of City Fertility Centre