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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### Suitability of the Egg Donation treatment

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#### 1. Is the egg donation programme suitable for me?

Egg donation is recommended for women who have fertility difficulties that have not been resolved by other assisted reproduction techniques utilising their own eggs (such as IVF). The treatment is usually suitable for older women, women with reproductive disorders or women with genetic abnormalities that could be transmitted to their children.

For women who are over 40 years of age and wish to become mothers, egg donation is the most successful reproduction technique.

#### 2. What are the advantages of egg donation compared to other fertility treatments?

Egg donation results in the **highest pregnancy rate**. There are also **several other advantages**, for example, it is unnecessary to have hormonal stimulation treatment, to include daily injections. Pregnancy arising from egg donation has a lower risk of miscarriage (due to chromosomal abnormalities related to the age of the patient).

#### 3. What is the success rate for egg donation?

At the Manzanera Fertility Clinic we have high success rates. The chances of **giving birth** following egg donation treatment in our clinic are about 53% per cycle.

#### 4. Can I become a mother if I am single? And, if I am homosexual?

Yes. Spanish law permits single women to undergo fertility treatment. We have sperm from a wide spectrum of donors.

Homosexual women can also have these treatments; there is no discrimination in fertility treatments in Spain.

#### 5. Can we become parents if my partner is HIV positive or has another contagious illness like hepatitis?

It depends on who has the illness. Where the man has the illness, before commencing treatment, it would be necessary for the semen sample to be treated in the laboratory in order to separate the virus from the semen sample.

Where it is the woman who has the illness, it would be necessary to analyse the severity of the virus prior to commencing treatment. Depending on the result, we may or may not be able to offer you IVF treatment.

## **6. Are there any risks or side effects with egg donation treatment?**

No. Egg donation treatment does not require ovarian stimulation or injections, sedation or anaesthetic. The process is totally painless and non-aggressive.

## **The Egg Donation Process at the Manzanera Fertility Centre**

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## **7. Are there any waiting lists for this treatment?**

At the Manzanera Fertility Clinic we have no waiting lists. You can contact us by phone or e-mail to arrange an appointment on a date that is convenient for you.

## **8. How many visits to the clinic are required?**

We recommend 2 consultations, one visit before starting the treatment and a second visit for embryo transfer. If you are unable to visit our clinic twice, we offer the flexibility for you to attend only once, to provide a semen sample so as to fertilise the eggs that have been collected from the donor (if you are not utilising donor sperm) and then have embryo transfer.

During your first visit to the clinic, the doctor will review your medical history with you and explain to you in detail how the treatment will work. In addition, the doctor will carry out a gynaecological examination and a test embryo transfer. The test transfer enables us to choose the best catheter for you when you have embryo transfer. At this visit, you may have the required tests if you have not had them done before (please see the answer to question 14 for more detail).

Finally, your partner may leave a semen sample, which will then be frozen. We recommend doing this to facilitate fertilization of the eggs collected from the donor. The eggs can then be fertilised before your second visit to the clinic. (Please see the answer to question 11, for more detail on the freezing of a semen sample).

## **9. How many days do I need to stay in Spain for?**

For the first consultation, you only need to stay for one day. When you are attending the clinic for embryo transfer and are utilizing fresh sperm you will need to stay for approximately 7 days (which includes one or two days of resting time after the embryo transfer). However, where you are utilising frozen sperm or donor sperm, you will only need to stay for 3 days, although you should also schedule in one or two days resting time after the embryo transfer.

## **10. Can we know in advance the exact dates on which the egg collection and embryo transfer will be performed?**

The Doctor will schedule your treatment for a certain week. We will tell you in advance a period of 7-8 days in which the egg collection and the embryo transfer will take place. You can book your trip for those dates.

However, we will only know the exact day of the egg collection a few days before ; we will let you know as soon as we will have the information.

In very few cases, the egg collection might be slightly anticipated or postponed. In that case, we will let you know as soon as possible, so that you can re-schedule your travel dates.

### **11. Why is it recommended to freeze sperm on the first visit to the clinic?**

The freezing of a semen sample is optional however, we recommend it because if the man is unable to provide another semen sample on the day of egg collection, for unforeseen circumstances, we are still able to fertilise the eggs that have been collected from the donor with the frozen sperm. Otherwise, we would have to freeze the eggs.

### **12. How many days of sexual abstinence are required keep before the treatment?**

The man should maintain 2 days of sexual abstinence before providing his semen sample. Note, this period of abstinence should be maintained prior to your first visit to the clinic should you wish to freeze a semen sample.

### **13. Do I need to take any medication for the treatment?**

Yes. You will need to take some medication that prepares your uterus for receiving the embryos. The treatment is simple and non-aggressive.

### **14. What tests and analysis are required prior to commencing the treatment? Can I have them done in the clinic? Can I bring them from my home country if I have already had them done?**

You and your partner will need to have the following blood screening tests: Hepatitis B, HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis C. You will both also need to have your blood group tested. In addition, your partner will need to have a karyotype test (which is a chromosome test), a Cystic fibrosis test and his semen will need to be analysed.

You can either have these tests done in the clinic or in your home country and provide us with the results. Please note, the blood screening tests and semen analysis need to have been done no longer than six months prior to you starting the treatment.

### **15. How do I get to the clinic?**

The clinic is very well connected by road, train and airports. If you wish, our chauffeur service can assist you by collecting you from your chosen airport. We can also help you find flights and local accommodation (in Logroño). If you need any help or information please contact our international department; our staff will be pleased to help you arrange your trip.

## **Egg collection and embryo transfer**

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### **16. How many eggs are usually collected and how many embryos will I have?**

The number of oocytes obtained depends on each donor's response to the treatment. At our clinic, each donor normally produces a high number of eggs, about 10, as our donors are healthy young women (between the age of 18 – 29 years). In addition, at our clinic, egg

donors are not shared, so all the eggs collected from your donor are for your fertility treatment alone.

The number of embryos depends on the number of the oocytes and the quality of the oocytes and the sperm. We are unable to tell you in advance but **our average fertilisation rate is high, about 70-75%.**

### **17. Are the eggs frozen before fertilisation or are they used whilst they are fresh?**

The eggs are fertilized a few hours after they have been collected. We do not freeze the eggs because using fresh eggs improves your success rate.

### **18. How many embryos are transferred?**

In accordance with Spanish law, we can transfer a maximum of 3 embryos. The doctor will inform you about the quality of your embryos, the probabilities of success in your own case and advise you on the number of embryos to be transferred. The final decision however is up to you.

### **19. Can the remaining embryos be frozen?**

Yes. When there are remaining embryos which are of good quality, we can freeze them so as to preserve them for future transfers.

### **20. What happens to the frozen embryos if I subsequently decide I do not want them to be transferred in the future?**

You and your partner have the following options: donate the embryos to other infertile couples for embryo adoption, donate them to scientific research or continue to freeze them (this incurs an annual charge). The frozen embryos are your responsibility. Once you and your partner decide that you do not want the clinic to continue to freeze the embryos, you will need to confirm this to the clinic in writing.

### **21. What happens if no eggs are collected from the donor?**

In the unfortunate event that no oocytes are collected from the donor during egg retrieval, the oocytes fail to fertilise, or there are no embryos to transfer, we will initiate another cycle with a new egg donor **free of charge**. Please read our Egg Donation: Embryo Transfer Cancellation Policy for further details.

## **Your Egg Donor**

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### **22. Can I choose the donor? Will I get any information about her? How is she selected?**

In accordance with Spanish Law, **egg donation is completely anonymous**. This means we cannot provide you with any information about the donor. In addition, you are unable to choose the donor.

We only select healthy women between the age of 18 to 29 years, usually students, who are fully screened for infectious diseases and genetic illnesses. Our staff select the best donor for each patient having regard to phenotype (physical characteristics) and blood group. We aim to match the egg recipient with a donor who is of similar appearance.

**23. Can the egg donor find out the identity of any children born as a result of her egg donation?**

No. **Egg and sperm donation are completely anonymous.** Accordingly, donors cannot find out the identity of the egg recipient or the child.

**24. Do egg donors receive any kind of monetary compensation?**

Egg donation is an altruistic act. However, the donor receives a small amount of monetary compensation for the inconvenience caused.