

Example of the oocyte donor information provided by the assisted reproduction institution carrying out the oocyte donation

1. What is oocyte donation?

Answer: Some couples with infertility require oocyte donation from others to conceive their offspring. Assisted reproduction allows oocyte donation to help these people by allowing them to become pregnant and deliver birth.

2. Can I donate oocyte?

Answer: Oocyte donor needs to fulfill the following criteria:

- (1) Women at least 20 and less than 40 years of age.
- (2) Under take testing and assessment to verify the eligibility as a donor.
- (3) The donor has never donated oocyte before, or the donor's previously donated reproductive cells never helped any recipient couple complete live births, and were not stored.

(The medical facilities shall reconfirm and review this with the Health Promotion Administration, MOHW.)

- (4) The donor agrees to donate without compensation.

3. What are the administrative procedures and examinations involved in oocyte donation?

Answer:

Process	Items	Explanations
Consultation and health assessment	1. Oocyte donation consultation (please bring your ID card to the medical facility)	1. The physician or consultation personnel shall inform the relevant laws and regulations, as well as precautions involved in germ cell donation. In addition, subsequent

	<p>2. Fill out the basic information and consent form for reproductive cell donation</p> <p>3. Psychological and physiological test and assessment.</p>	<p>procedures shall be explained.</p> <p>2. After the consent is confirmed, the basic information and consent form for reproductive cell donation shall be filled out.</p> <p>3. Basic examination over the genetically hereditary diseases, infectious diseases (such as AIDS, syphilis, gonorrhoea and so forth), the PAP smear and psychological assessment shall be done.</p>
The data shall be sent to the Competent Authority for inspection	Inspection data shall then be transferred to the Health Promotion Administration, MOHW for review	
Matching shall be done after the data is qualified	After the inspection data has been verified by the HPA, MOHW, it shall then wait for the outcome of donor matching.	Oocyte retrieval can proceed once the oocyte donor is suitable after being evaluated, and a successful match is found.
Oocyte retrieval 1	Starting treatment sessions: use of ovulation stimulants	

Oocyte retrieval 2	Prior to oocyte retrieval: the donor shall return to the clinic for blood sample test, sonography, adjust ovulation stimulants dosage and confirm oocyte retrieval time.	
Oocyte retrieval 3	Oocyte retrieval: complete oocyte retrieval	
Oocyte retrieval 4	Follow-up after oocyte retrieval to ensure no complications	

4. What are the precautions for oocyte donation?

- Answer: (1) Temporary suspension use of Chinese medicine, Western medicine, hormone drug, diet medication or sleeping pills should be done. Additionally, smoking and alcohol cessation should be carried out until the whole treatment course is completed. There are no particular restrictions over daily activities, however, please maintain a regular lifestyle and normal diet.
- (2) Please follow the physician's order and return to the hospital for medicine administration or follow-up on follicle growth rate and numbers.
- (3) If poor reaction or hyper-reaction for ovarian stimulation is experienced during the treatment, the physician may terminate the current treatment and arrange for next treatment session, or cancel the donation process altogether.

- (4) An adult is required to accompany the donor for traveling to and back from the hospital as anesthesia is required on day of oocyte retrieval.
- (5) As oocyte donor requires injection for induced ovulation, blood examination, follow-up sonography, oocyte retrieval procedure and so forth, frequent hospital visits may be required. However, most of the procedures are done within the 10 days period after initiating the ovulation stimulants. You may call to make an appointment in advance with the clinic to save time from waiting.

5. Will there be any side effects or risks from oocyte donation?

- Answer: (1) The donor of the oocyte is required to use ovulation drugs and receive ovum pick-up procedure, therefore there maybe local discomfort or allergic reaction that is triggered by the drug injection, as well as Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome (OHSS) that is caused by induced ovulation, risks that are related to ovum pick-up procedure and anesthesia, and so forth. However, the occurrence probability for these complications can be minimized by physician's careful evaluation during drug usage.
- (2) Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome that is induced by the ovulation stimulants: this complication is related to the use of ovulation stimulants, due to the ovary being hyperreactive towards the drug. The incidence rate of severe "ovarian hyperstimulation reaction" is approximately 1-5%. The potential clinical symptoms include abdominal distension, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, tachycardia, reduction of urinary output and weight gain. In some severe cases, there may be excessive ascites, breathing difficulty, adjustment in the blood concentration, liver dysfunction, electrolyte imbalance, blood vessel thrombosis and other complications. Mild ovarian

hyperstimulation reaction may self recover after few days. The treatment for severe cases includes fluid supply, drug treatment, hospitalization, ascites or pleural fluid tapping. Emergency measures may also be needed when there is worsening of condition.

- (3) Risks of ovum pick-up: the procedure is mainly carried out via vagina (occasionally it is carried out via laparoscopy). The oocyte donor is required to take the risks from anesthesia and surgical procedure:
- a. Risks from anesthesia include: Metabolic acidosis, pneumonia (incidence rate is approximately 0.05%), insufficient ventilation, bronchospasm, hypotension, allergic reaction from drugs used in anesthesia (incidence rate is approximately 0.01%), arrhythmia, cardiac arrest, carbon dioxide embolism, pulmonary edema, gastric acid reflux and inhalation pneumonia, etc. The incidence of anesthesia related mortality is about 1 in 100,000.
  - b. The surgical risks include: bleeding (incidence rate: 0.02-0.3%), infection (incidence rate < 0.6%); some rare cases (< 0.01%) of gastrointestinal tract damage, urinary track damage, vaginal or peritoneal cavity hematoma, neural damage and other pathological changes.

6. Will I reach menopause earlier after oocyte donation?

Answer: The usable oocytes number for a normal female is hundreds of thousands.

Each month, approximately 100-1,000 oocytes will be wasted, while only one reaches maturity and released. The oocyte that is donated is the wasted oocyte during the month (these will undergo atrophy even when they are not being donated), therefore it will not affect the overall oocyte number, nor will it result in early menopause.

7. Is the ovulation injection painful?

Answer: The ovulation injection has been developed through continuous revolution and updates. The current injections are mostly subcutaneous injections that greatly reduce the pain during injection. Moreover, the procedure is simple, and you may even administer provide self-injection at home to avoid daily hospital visits and reduce the impact on work or academic performances.

8. How is the oocyte retrieval being carried out? Will general anesthesia be required? Will hospitalization be required? Can I go to work or school?

Answer: The oocyte retrieval should be done by general anesthesia through intravenous injection. 8 hours of fasting (including no water intake) should be done before oocyte retrieval. The site is selected via vaginal ultrasound and the matured oocyte and follicular fluid is extracted by fine needle. These are transferred to the laboratory technician to carry out the subsequent measures. The entire surgical process is painless, leaving no scars as the procedure only requires a needle hole, so suture is not needed. The entire surgical time is approximately 20-40 minutes. Hospitalization is not required after oocyte retrieval. The oocyte donor may return home once no discomfort is experienced. The oocyte donor is required to take 2-3 days of oral medication after returning home as directed by the physician.

9. What are the remuneration involved in oocyte donation?

Answer: In order to prevent the sperm and oocyte donation become a commercial transaction, affecting their quality and induce ethical disputes, the regulation has specified that the sperm and oocyte donation should be done with no compensation. However, considering that the donor may need to undergo relevant examination and other medical care, a recipient couple may, therefore, within the monetary amount or price limit set by the competent authority, commission the assisted reproduction institution to provide a nutrition allowance or nutrition products to the donor, or may pay for the

donor's necessary testing, medical care, and transportation expenses and loss of working hours. The oocyte donor who has completed the donation process may receive a maximum amount up to \$99,000 TWD.

10. Will the recipient know who the donor is?

Answer: The medical care institutions shall follow Article 13 of the “Assisted Reproduction Act”, providing information concerning the donor's ethnicity, skin color, and blood type for the reference of the recipient couple. Other personal data regarding the donor shall not be disclosed.

11. If there is regret after donating the oocyte, can I ask for its return?

Answer: According to Article 19 of the “Assisted Reproduction Act”, donors shall not request the return of any donated reproductive cells. However, where a donor is diagnosed or proven as having a functional impairment of reproduction by a physician, that donor may request the return of any reproductive cells that have not been destroyed.

12. Will there be any problem involving “acknowledgment of biological parents”after oocyte donation?

Answer: According to the “Assisted Reproduction Act”, there is no legal relationship between the reproductive cell donor and children conceived through assisted reproduction. The recognition of the offspring from the assisted reproduction is based on the consent gathered from the couple wanting to receive reproductive cell fertilization. Hence, in order to protect the offspring's over the foundation of Good faith principle, the offspring shall be regarded as legitimate child. On the other hand, the Family part of the Civil Code has stated the specifications by legal fiction for legitimate child, that the Assisted Reproduction Act is specifically for offspring produced via marriage, therefore there are no problem involving rejection in terms of denying biological relationship by the artificially conceived offspring, nor

shall there be any reason for the offspring to request for acknowledgment of biological parents by the donor.

13. Shall there be any ethical problems after reproductive cell donation?

Answer: In order to uphold the health of the nation and related ethics, as well as avoiding potential disorder caused by lineage issues, the sperm and oocytes from the following relatives shall not be united: (1) Direct blood relatives; (2) Direct relatives by marriage; (3) Collateral blood relatives within the fourth degree of kinship. The competent authority shall complete the verification process to avoid the occurrence of the following situations as described above prior to using the oocytes.

Assisted reproduction institutions shall not provide reproductive cells donated by a single donor to two or more recipient couples at the same time, and shall immediately cease providing reproductive cells from the same donor after a recipient couple has successfully achieved pregnancy. The reproductive cells shall be destroyed immediately for the couple that has completed the live birth. On the other hand, there are differences in the status of offspring from assisted reproduction compare to the traditional Civil Code. Offspring of assisted reproduction or their legal representatives may submit an inquiry to the Competent Authority for situations regarding close relative marriage or adoption, that are otherwise prohibited by the Civil Code.