University of Huddersfield Repository

Golding, Berenice

Egg sharing: from the donors’ perspective

Original Citation


This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/4632/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/
Egg sharing: from the donors’ perspective

Berenice Golding, 2nd Year PhD Student, School of Human and Health Sciences

Women who face difficulties conceiving a child may consider various treatments, including ‘egg sharing’. But is it a practical, socially acceptable and ethical treatment option?

Introduction
Infertility affects 1 in 7 couples in the United Kingdom (Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority, 2006).
▪ In vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment(s) may be the only way of possibly overcoming infertility.
▪ Egg sharing is one treatment option.
▪ An egg share donor agrees to share her eggs with up to two recipients.
▪ Egg share donors can access cheaper, quicker treatment (Blyth, 2002; Simons & Ahuja, 2005; Blyth & Golding, 2008).
▪ Some women may consider egg sharing because of their age or financial situation.

But is it ethical?

The Research
The research is exploring the experiences of egg share donors’ in an attempt to find out if it is an ethical treatment option. It seeks to answer the following questions:
▪ Why do some women choose egg sharing?
▪ What motivates their choice?
▪ Is it financial?
▪ Is it because they can help another couple?
▪ What is an egg share donors’ understanding of ‘informed consent’?

Methods
Semi-structured e-mail interviews have been conducted with three egg share donors’. The interviews have asked:
▪ How and why they decided to egg share
▪ What information they received about ‘informed consent’
▪ What impact their decision has had on other family members

Early Findings
Early findings from the interviews show that:
▪ Infertility significantly affects every aspect of a woman's life
▪ Deciding to become an egg share donor is not an easy decision.

Currently five reasons have been identified as to why women agree to become an egg share donor. These are:
▪ There is a genuine wish to help another couple
▪ There is an inability to fund their own treatment
▪ NHS waiting times are too long
▪ They are able to get quicker treatment
▪ They are no longer eligible for NHS treatment

The research is ongoing.

References