

PROCEDURE FOR RECIPIENT CYCLE

All donor egg recipients must go through an initial six-week preparatory cycle. This cycle lasts approximately 21 days, with 2 weeks of medication preparation prior. During this cycle, you will be prescribed Lupron, Estrogen and Progesterone. (Patients who have no ovarian function will not receive Lupron.) The prep cycle will confirm an optimum response to replacement hormones.

During the preparatory cycle, you will have blood assay testing five times and two ultrasounds throughout the cycle. Some patients may have a slower response, which would require extended monitoring. After your prep cycle, the egg physician will conduct a complete medical review.

The recipient and partner must complete several prerequisite medical and psychological tests including prep cycle, semen analysis, initial consults, uterine evaluation, and infectious disease testing. All recipients must complete these tests before they can be matched to cycle.

Before accepting an anonymous egg donor, you will be given the opportunity to review pertinent facts about her education, social background, ethnicity and both personal and family background. Once you accept a donor, you will then begin preparation for the donor egg cycle.

The donor cycle begins by synchronizing the donor and recipient menstrual cycles. Unless there were issues that arose, you will be prescribed the same medications used in your prep cycle. The donor is prescribed Follistim or Gonal F, Menopur, Ganrelix, Ovidrel or Lupron, in a specified combination. You will be monitored twice a week once the donor begins taking the stimulating medications.

On the day of the donor's egg retrieval, the eggs will be fertilized. If your partner is providing a fresh sample, he will give a semen sample in our Embryology Laboratory. If you are using frozen sperm, arrangements will be made to ensure the lab has the sample for the day of retrieval. You will need to let the nurse know if you will be using a frozen specimen so these arrangements can be made. The day following egg retrieval and attempted fertilization, you will be notified by a nurse coordinator regarding the fertilization results and the preembryo transfer schedule. Preembryo transfers are usually performed three or five days after the donor's retrieval.

After the embryo transfer, you may be instructed to continue taking progesterone and estrogen patches to help support the uterine lining that was built up in the first half of the cycle. During this post transfer period, various blood hormone levels will be measured to evaluate your progress twice a week. A pregnancy test will be performed two weeks after the donor's retrieval. We understand you may feel anxious while waiting for test results; please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

If you become pregnant, an ultrasound will be performed three weeks after the establishment of a viable pregnancy. You will also be referred to an obstetrician if you have not already chosen one.

If the cycle is unsuccessful, you may return to the waiting list to undergo another attempt. In order to optimize any future attempts, every aspect of a failed cycle is studied and evaluated by your physician and the other members of our donor egg team.