



Oocyte (Egg) Donation

What is Oocyte (Egg) Donation?

- Egg donation is the gifting of your egg for use in the fertility treatment of a couple who is unable to conceive.
- Your eggs are first collected from your ovary. They will then be frozen or fertilised with the recipient husband's sperm whereby the resultant embryo(s) will be frozen. The eggs/embryos will be thawed when the recipient couple is ready to use them for their assisted reproduction procedures. The aim is to allow the fertilised eggs to develop into embryo(s), which can be transferred to the recipient's uterus and give her a chance at pregnancy.

Why should I choose to donate egg(s)?

- Egg donation will enable you to help an infertile married couple to have a child of their own.
- You may choose to donate to a particular couple (known donation) or to an anonymous/unknown couple (anonymous/unknown donation).
- Egg donation is entirely voluntary.

Eligibility to become an egg donor

- Oocytes donated by women between the ages of 21 **and below 38** at the point of oocyte removal.
- Nurse coordinator will assess the donor's intent and ensure the donor meet the age criteria
- Doctor/ Nurse coordinator will explain the process of the egg donor and to complete a lifestyle questionnaire with you (Live Donor Assessment Questionnaire).
- If you or any of your relatives have any physical, mental or psychological impediment, disability or abnormality - whether inherited or as a result of any disease, ailment, or accident - you may not be eligible to be a donor.

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- Some birth defects (e.g., cleft palate) and serious diseases may be genetically linked. Thus, if you have a family history of these conditions, you may not be eligible

What does it involve?

- Donor shall be assessed using the psychosocial assessment. It must be done together with the spouse if the donor is married.
- The Psychiatrist/ Psychologist shall assess the donor on suitability to donate.
- Psychological report will be endorsed by **The Clinical Governance Officer**.
- IVF counselling (which involves the follicle stimulation and the oocyte retrieval process) is given to donor and spouse if married.
- You have to consent to a general physical examination and be agreeable for donor consent taking.
***Please note that spouse consent is required if you are married.
Your blood will be tested for full blood count; blood grouping; and infectious diseases including HIV, Hepatitis B and C, Syphilis, Cytomegalovirus (CMV IgG and CMV IgM), **HTLV Type I and II, urine Gonorrhoea, Chlamydia** and urine CMV.
- Antral Follicle Count and FSH/LH/E2 (hormone profile) will be required during your menses day.
- When the results are out, the CARE nurse will arrange another appointment for you to see the doctor for IVF consent taking & IVF treatment regime.
- The nurse coordinator shall organize with you when to start the follicle stimulation (which involve self administer injection for 2-3weeks and regular follicular scans to monitor the response) and oocyte retrieval (an outpatient procedure, where medications are administered to make you relax or go into a light sleep while Doctor is using an ultrasound-guided needle to retrieve the eggs).
- After retrieval, the eggs will be frozen at the Hospital, or the eggs will be fertilised with the recipient husband's sperm and the resultant embryo(s) would then be frozen.

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- You will be required to repeat infectious screening blood test not earlier than **3** months from the time of oocyte retrieval, before the donated eggs can be used.

Use in Recipient's Fertility Treatment

In the case of anonymous/ unknown donation, if there are couples who require egg donation, matching will be performed usually in terms of race and/or blood group. If they match your profile, your stored eggs will be thawed and used in their fertility treatment.

In the case of known donation, your eggs/embryos will be thawed and used in the intended recipient's fertility treatment. The recipient's husband cannot be biologically related to the donor as prohibited by law.

Legal Considerations

- Donors must be altruistic (i.e., must not receive monetary compensation in exchange for their egg (s)).
- Once there are **5** live-birth events (could be in the same but not more than **5** different families), the remaining eggs if any, cannot be used and will be disposed of. Occasionally, even if there are already **5** live-birth events, a family with a child may appeal to Ministry of Health (MOH) to use the same donor so that their child can have a related sibling.

Withdrawing Consent

- Donors shall be given at least 7 days to consider.
- Consent shall be done after the 7 days of consideration.
- You may withdraw your consent for donation at any time before the start of the recipient's treatment cycle.

What will happen to the eggs and clinical information collected?

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- Medical records relating to the donation of your eggs will be released to the Ministry of Health, for the purpose of record keeping. Your medical information will be treated with the strictest confidence.
- Your eggs will be stored until there are **5** live-birth events or as per the Hospital policy.

What precautions must I take for the procedure?

Please inform your doctor of any medical illnesses you may have and if any of the following are applicable:

1. You have a history of allergy or reaction to any medications or food.
2. You have a history of bleeding or clotting disorders.
3. You are taking drugs (e.g. Aspirin, Clopidogrel, Warfarin, and Rivaroxaban) or supplements (e.g. Cordyceps, Ginkgo Biloba, and Lingzhi), that thin your blood, as these substances may increase the risk of bleeding. If you are taking any of these, your doctor will advise you accordingly

What are the risks and complications of the procedure?

Risk of abandoning the procedure

- > Due to Insufficient follicular development

Risks and complications associated with hormone stimulation

- > Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome (OHSS)
- > Adverse drug reaction
- > Twisting or rupture of the ovaries

Risks and complications associated with procedure

- > Bleeding
- > Infection
- > Injury to nearby organs

Risks associated with storage

- > Damage to Eggs

What can I expect after the procedure?

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- Your blood pressure, pulse rate and pain levels will be monitored during the egg retrieval procedure. Painkillers are given as needed to help you manage the pain post retrieval.
- You have to be accompanied home after the procedure.
- You are advised not to drive and to rest for the remainder of the day.
- If you continue to feel unwell, and experience persistent or severe pain and bleeding, please come back to the hospital.

What can I expect after donating egg(s)?

- If you are making an anonymous (unknown) donation, the identity of any recipient of your eggs will not be disclosed to you, and you shall not attempt to find out the identity of any recipient. You are not allowed to seek the identity of any child (or children) born as a result of your egg donation nor seek to make any claim in respect of such child or children in any circumstances whatsoever. The recipient couple shall be the lawful parents of any child or children born as a result of the donation.
- If you are making a known donation, you will know who the recipient is.

What are your options?

- You may choose not to donate the eggs.
- You may change your mind about donating eggs up to the point before the start of the recipient's treatment cycle.
- If you change your mind about donating your eggs, please inform the Hospital.