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Poster Presentations

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Emotions towards potential genetic offspring among oocyte donors: A cross sectional study

Khosravi S¹, Kazemi A¹, Ahmadi S².

1. Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran.

2. Isfahan Fertility and Infertility Center, Isfahan, Iran.

Email: kazemi@nm.mui.ac.ir

Background: The presence of maternal emotions towards the offspring resulting from assisted reproductive techniques (ART) has been previously reported in oocyte donors. However, there is limited information about the presence of these emotions in oocyte donors during the ART process and before pregnancy.

Objective: The aim of this study was to evaluate these emotions of women towards the potential genetic offspring and to compare them with women treated with ART by using own oocytes.

Materials and Methods: A cross sectional study was conducted on 150 women who were divided into two groups of oocyte donors and those treated with ART

and using autologous oocyte. At the time of oocyte retrieval and using a validated questionnaire, the emotions toward potential offspring (EPO) resulting from ART and its three dimensions (including imagination, sense of ownership, and importance of treatment outcome) were measured and compared in two groups.

Results: Out of 150 women, the mean score of EPO was 39.34 in oocyte donors and 49.52 in own oocyte women. Comparison of the EPO in the two groups showed that the emotions in all three dimensions were lower in oocyte donors than the other group ($p < 0.0001$). Moreover, in oocyte donors, the mean score of the scale of the importance of treatment outcome dimension was higher than the other two scales ($p < 0.0001$).

Conclusion: The results of the study showed that there is a significant emotion toward the potential offspring in oocyte donors. The presence of these emotions thus should be considered in formulating the ethical principles of ART by using oocyte donation.

Key words: Oocyte donation, Emotion, Offspring, Assisted reproductive techniques.