

Specialists In Reproductive Medicine & Surgery, P.A.

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Excellence, Experience & Ethics



Therapeutic Donor Insemination Patient Information

Indications:

Therapeutic Donor Insemination (TDI or just DI) may be indicated because of a complete lack of sperm or a decreased number/quality of sperm. Women who have partners with a known inheritable disorder or ejaculatory difficulties are also candidates for the donor sperm process. Women without male partners may also be candidates for donor sperm.

Where Do We Get The Donor Sperm?

While there are a number of donor sperm banks available, it is the experience of SRMS that [Fairfax Cryobank](#) offers the widest selection of quality donor specimens. You may visit the following address for more information: <http://www.fairfaxcryobank.com/index.cfm> about the Fairfax Cryobank facility.

Sperm Donor Screening:

Less than 5% of applying sperm donors are actually accepted into the Fairfax program. All Sperm donors are 18 - 44 years old. A clinical geneticist very carefully evaluates each donor's medical and genetic history. A four-generation family history questionnaire is completed with the following emphasis (a positive history will exclude the donor):

History of malformations, inheritable disease, familial diseases such as asthma, juvenile diabetes mellitus, epileptic disorders, hypertension, psychosis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Comprehensive history, physical exam and laboratory testing procedures are performed on the donor. In addition, the prospective sperm donor undergoes the following:

Routine General Testing	Routine Genetic Testing	Routine Sexually Transmitted Diseases	When Indicated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Semen Analysis ◆ Semen Culture ◆ Blood type & Rh ◆ Cholesterol & triglycerides ◆ Glucose levels ◆ Liver function studies ◆ Cytomegalovirus antibody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Karyotype (chromosomes) ◆ Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency carrier status (S & Z mutations) ◆ Cystic Fibrosis carrier status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ HIV (HIV-1 and HIV-2) Antibodies ◆ Chlamydia ◆ Gonorrhea ◆ Syphilis ◆ Hepatitis B surface antigen & core antibody ◆ Hepatitis C Surface Antibody ◆ Herpes Simplex 1&2 ◆ Human papillomavirus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Candida (Yeast) ◆ Trichomonas vaginalis ◆ Streptococcus B ◆ Adenovirus ◆ Actinomyces ◆ Tay Sachs Disease ◆ Canavan Disease ◆ Gaucher's Disease ◆ BRCA-1 (breast & ovarian cancer gene) ◆ Thalassemia

Therapeutic Donor Insemination Patient Information (*cont.*)

	(HPV) ◆ Mycoplasma	◆ Sickle Cell Disease
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One of the frozen (cryopreserved) semen samples is also thawed and examined making certain that there are at least 15-20 million moving sperm available for use when sent to our facility for actual placement.

All semen is quarantined for a minimum of six months. Each donor is then rechecked for HIV and Hepatitis B & C every six months. Only after the tests have returned negative in a sequential manner, will the sperm be released for transfer.

Donor Sperm List:

The most up-to-date donor list is available on the Internet and can be searched via the following:

Search/Review Method	Web Address
Fairfax General Site	http://www.fairfaxcryobank.com , Go to Donor, and click Donor Search
Fairfax Cryobank Register (for print)*	http://www.fairfaxcryobank.com , Go to Service/Forms, and click Print Register.

* This requires that you have free Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer. For additional information, please visit the SRMS web site at <http://www.dreamababy.com/pdf-file-info.htm>.

The donor lists on the web are updated daily. If you do not have access to a computer, please make an appointment and the staff here at SRMS will be happy to assist you. Separate fees will be incurred with this assistance depending upon the time involved.

Basic Sperm Donor Divisions:

All sperm donors have undergone a basic three-generational family history, physical examination and extensive genetic and infectious disease testing. The available donors are then divided further:

Category	Definition
Family Solutions	These donors were obtained before extensive personal information was routinely obtained by Fairfax
Fairfax	Personal profiles, photos, donor essays and some audio interview CD's are available in this division.
Fairfax Doctorate	These donors are in the process of earning or have completed a doctorate degree in the medical, dental, chiropractice, law, veterinary or optometry fields of study. This list also includes Ph.D's in numerous other fields of study.

Please understand that there is no data that shows that the pregnancy rates are different between the various options listed above.

We recommend that only **ICI** (intra-cervical insemination) specimens be purchased. In this way, we are able to perform the last step in the donor preparation after thaw through a mini-preparation procedure. Obtaining cryopreserved **IUI** specimens often result in fewer available sperm for insemination.

Therapeutic Donor Insemination Patient Information (*cont.*)

Your particular donor is often chosen with respect to the ethnic origin, height, weight, color of hair, eyes, blood type, occupation, religion and general interests. We generally suggest that you make a list of the five most acceptable donors with number one as your first choice and number five as your last choice. ***Please do not add anyone to the list unless you feel comfortable with that choice.*** We try to order your first choice but may have to move down the list, depending upon the availability of the donor.

While it is unlikely for a donor to be responsible for more than one pregnancy in this geographic area, a single donor will not be used for more than 10 pregnancies within the entire Southwest Florida region. This limit is far below the statistically acceptable limit set for the population base here in Southwest Florida, which estimated, is closer to 17. In general, however, a particular donor is rarely responsible for more than a single offspring.

Additional Sperm Donor Information:

There is often additional information available on many of your desired donors.

Information Title	Information Included In Summary
Summary Profiles	The two-page summary includes the medical and genetic histories of a donor's family and is available on the web <i>free of charge</i> . Fairfax can also have copies of this information mailed at an additional charge..
Donor Essays	This <i>free information</i> includes the answers to approximately four questions.
Medical History Profiles	This 12-14-page summary gives an extensive medical history on the donor and also lists medical conditions for his siblings, parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents. Fairfax provides and bills for this information separately.
Personal Profiles	These 10+ pages include personal information about the donor, the donor siblings, parents and grandparents. This includes personality tests, interests, goals, academic scores, military record, specific physical features, specific facial features and other information. Fairfax bills this separately.
Donor Audio Interviews	Information regarding the donor's childhood, aspirations, accomplishments, values, family life and personal interests is available in the donor's own words. Fairfax bills this separately.
Photo-Assisted Donor Selection	The idea is that Fairfax tries to match the donor to your male partner's photograph. They ask that you narrow your selection to eight or fewer donors. Two photographs of your male partner are then sent to Fairfax and they try to give you their best match. There is a fee for this service.

Any and all of the above materials can be obtained online. If you have any questions, please call the Fairfax Cryobank customer service department at 1-800-338-8407.

Recipient Screening:

Besides a complete history and physical examination, the recipient of donor sperm is also tested for:

General:	Sexually Transmitted Diseases	When Needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hepatitis B Surface Antigen ◆ Hepatitis C Surface Antibody ◆ Blood type ◆ Antibody screen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibodies ◆ Chlamydia ◆ Syphilis ◆ Gonorrhea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fallopian Tube Patency (Hysterosalpingogram, HSG)

Therapeutic Donor Insemination Patient Information (*cont.*)

◆ General blood chemistry	◆ <i>Partner's HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibodies</i>	
◆ Progesterone (confirms ovulation)		
◆ Annual pap smear	◆ <i>Partner's blood type (if desired)</i>	

How is the TDI Procedure Done?

Assuming that all preparatory work has been done (Therapeutic Donor Insemination Patient Checklist), the recipient checks her urine for an LH surge (Urinary LH Monitoring) and calls when this is found. The following day, the cryopreserved specimen is thawed, carefully examined, further purified, identified by all those attending the procedure and then placed into the uterus with a slender catheter (IUI Patient Information).

Fairfax Cryobank guarantees that 40% of the sperm will be motile with 25 million total motile sperm per milliliter. Each thawed specimen is about 0.5 cc in volume so we usually have at least 15 million moving sperm for insemination. **We check each specimen after thawing to make certain that the guaranteed number of motile sperm is present.** While variable, Fairfax will often credit a portion of their fee if fewer than the guaranteed minimum number of sperm is available upon thaw.

Procedures To Improve My Chances of Conception:

- If your partner has abnormal sperm or has had a vasectomy, we recommend abstinence from vaginal ejaculation intercourse for four days before and four days following your insemination. The ejaculate from your partner may contain substances, such as antibodies, that could render the donor sperm useless. Sexual activity may still take place and is encouraged, but no sperm in the vagina, please.
- Double insemination procedures (two specimens on the same or consecutive days).
- Ovulatory medications in conjunction with the above.

How Long Should It Take To Work?

The ability to conceive in a given month with young healthy couples with normal sperm through natural intercourse is estimated at 20%. It is not surprising that it may take a number of months (usually only a few) before donor sperm works. While some couples may conceive on their first attempt, others may require 4, 5 or more attempts. It is reasonable to consider more aggressive measures (i.e., double-inseminations, the addition of ovulatory medications) should conception not occur within the first few months. Patients who fail to conceive after 4-6 well-timed insemination cycles may be candidates for other testing to evaluate other causes of infertility.

Please visit the SRMS web site at <http://www.dreamababy.com/stats-tdi-iui.htm> to review our donor insemination statistics over the past few years. ***This is strongly encouraged!***

Fee Schedule for Donor Semen Services:

Understand that no specimens will be ordered without prior payment. There are, unfortunately, no exceptions. Please understand that the fees charged by the donor sperm suppliers are not under our control and may change without notice.

Ordering The Donor Sperm:

It is recommended that you choose at least five potential donors and list these in order of desire. Do not list any that you will not feel comfortable using!

You may order the sperm directly from Fairfax (800-338-8407) although we recommend that you allow the staff to place the orders. In this way, we can confirm and track the transportation of the cryopreserved sperm. We cannot be held responsible for any sperm that arrives here to the practice without prior notification. SRMS does not charge for ordering the sperm and we are seasoned at the process.

It is recommended that the sperm be ordered at least seven days prior to use. Recall that Fairfax may be closed for holidays and cycles will be lost if the ordering process is left to the last minute.

Fairfax will generally credit a portion of their fees for any semen that is not received prior to the time requested by the physician's office.

Short-Term Storage of Sperm On-Site:

1. It is expected that the period of semen storage on-site will be reasonably short and not any longer than 6 months. There are minimal charges from SRMS for the first six months of storage.
2. Unless a large number of specimens are stored, these fees are the same regardless of the number of vials stored. The fees will be due prior the arrival of the sperm.
3. Purchased sperm that is transported to SRMS which is never used cannot be returned to Fairfax.

Long-Term Storage of Sperm On-Site:

1. If a semen specimen is not used within 6 months of being received, the recipient couple will be billed for long-term storage of the sperm. Separate consents will also be required for sperm that is stored at SRMS beyond the customary 6 months.
2. Unless a large number of specimens are stored, these fees are the same regardless of the number of vials stored. The fees must be pre-paid. If fees are not paid, the semen will become the property of SRMS.
3. Purchased sperm that is transported to SRMS which is never used cannot be returned to Fairfax.
4. You are free to transport the cryopreserved sperm to a distant location for long-term storage, but our fees are generally less than other locations.

Guaranteed Future Availability of the Same Donor:

Patients who think that they may want additional children by the same donor are encouraged to purchase additional donor specimens at the time of the first conception. We here at SRMS and Fairfax offer long-term storage options. Any unused specimens that never left the Fairfax Cryobank may be returned at half the original purchase price. It should be considered a sound investment in your family's future.

Therapeutic Donor Insemination Patient Information (*cont.*)

The costs incurred in asking Fairfax to re-activate a retired donor can be avoided by purchasing the sperm ahead of time. There is also no guarantee that a retired donor will be available for additional donations.

Legal Issues:

When applicable, a general signed consent will be requested from both partners. This same consent must be signed ***each month*** an insemination is actually performed. If the partner is present at the time of insemination, implied consent will be assumed, although the signed consent will be ideal. If the partner is unable to be present, the consent **must** be signed to protect all parties or the donor specimen will not be placed.

Risks of the Donor Insemination Process:

There may be adverse emotional and psychological consequences to the procedure and a referral for psychiatric evaluation and counseling may be required or requested prior to the performance of any TDI procedure.

While the risks are quite small, insemination with frozen donor semen carries with it the potential risk of sexually transmitted diseases including, but not necessarily limited to, gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes, hepatitis and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Other risks are further described in the **Therapeutic Donor Insemination (TDI) General & Monthly Consent Form**.

If you choose a donor who is Rh factor positive, and you are Rh factor negative, you may become Rh sensitized as a result of carrying and delivering a Rh factor positive baby. If you are Rh factor positive, then you cannot become sensitized to this particular antigen and do not need to concern yourself with this issue. The vast majority of Rh factor negative women who carry and deliver a Rh factor positive baby do not become sensitized. Those women who are at risk typically will be given a blocking agent (RhoD immune globulin) to further reduce the risk of sensitization. ***Because the risks are so low, the medical staff at SRMS feels that it is not necessary for you to choose a sperm donor with a specific blood type.*** Please discuss these issues further with our medical staff if you are Rh negative.

Confidentiality:

All records in this office will only be released upon consent by the recipient or through legal means. At the present time, the offspring do **not** have legal access to these records. Realizing the legal system can be unpredictable, these “rules” may change in the future. SRMS will do everything in their power to protect the confidentiality of their patients.

While certainly a personal decision, it is recommended that all persons undergoing the TDI/IUI procedures consider telling friends and family of the donor sperm process only if it is also intended that the child conceived through donor sperm be told when they are old enough to understand. ***It is generally not recommended that you tell only select family and friends.*** This information may be inadvertently told to the child at the most inopportune of times.

Updated: 1/20/2010

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