Considerations of third-party reproduction in Iran

Sir,

We have read the article written by Isikoglu et al., published in January 2006 issue of this journal with interest. We would like to mention some points about the situation of gamete donation in Iran that authors have also pointed out in the discussion.

Based on the decree (Fatwa) by the spiritual leader of Iran, donor technologies are permitted and could be effectively used. According to this Fatwa, oocyte donation is not in and by itself forbidden, and also, it is not prohibited to fertilize a woman’s oocyte with a sperm donor in and by itself, but the opposite gender should avoid touching or seeing the woman or man. Tubal infertility associated with gross hydroosalpingoidal changes, dense pelvic adhesion because of endometriosis or pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) was excluded. In other words, our subjects had no chronic disease condition. This was done to account for the fact that diseased conditions are often associated with reactive oxygen species (ROS) generation.

Presently, we are not in a position to comment on the high levels of ROS in endometriosis as mentioned by Attaran et al. (2000). It is, however, suggested that the sample size be increased for assessing ROS levels in endometriosis as only 12 subjects are reported by the group which appear to be too small a population to comment on the significant correlation between ROS and pregnancy outcome in endometriosis.

For these reasons, the new act is silent on such techniques as sperm donation. We hope that along with taking these important issues into consideration, the parliament will pave the way for authorization of other required regulations.

References


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Reply: Considerations of third-party reproduction in Iran

Sir,

We greatly appreciate the valuable comment by Dr Zahedi on our article entitled ‘Public opinion regarding oocyte donation in Turkey: first data from a secular population among the Islamic world’. During the preparation of our manuscript, we consulted with Dr Azimaraghi from Iran (Azimaraghi and Stones-Abbasi, 2004) and also with Dr Schenker JG from Israel (who has several publications on the issue) regarding the status of third-party reproduction in the Islamic world. We realized that although oocyte donation is practised in Iran, most of the professionals were not fully aware of the details of the regulations. For this reason, the information presented by Dr Zahedi is extremely important. As far as I know, Iran is the only country in the Islamic world where third-party reproductive treatment is allowed.