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Widely utilized Preimplantation Genetic Screening does not improve pregnancy rates with in vitro fertilization and should be considered experimental

Investigators from the **Center for Human Reproduction** (CHR-New York) in an Editor's Corner article in *Fertility and Sterility* (official organ of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, ASRM), which just appeared electronically (*March 17, 2008, [Epub ahead of print]*), criticize the increasing worldwide utilization of preimplantation genetic screening (PGS) in attempts to improve in vitro fertilization (IVF) pregnancy rates and reduce miscarriage rates.

PGS involves the genetic investigation of embryos, created through the IVF process, in attempts to determine prior to embryo transfer into the uterus which embryos are chromosomally normal. Proponents of PGS have argued that the transfer of only euploid (chromosomally normal) embryos should improve IVF pregnancy rates and reduce miscarriage rates.

Drs. Norbert Gleicher, Andrea Weghofer and David Barad, the authors of this report, based on review of published reports in the medical literature, however, conclude that PGS, if applied unselectively, does not achieve these desired effects and, indeed, may reduce pregnancy chances with IVF. Whether PGS may be successful in improving IVF outcomes in selected patient populations remains to be determined.

They, therefore, argue that PGS should be considered an experimental technique and should be offered only with appropriate informed consents and under study conditions. A formal statement of the Practice Committees of the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART) and ASRM recently also stated that available evidence does not support the use of PGS, as currently performed (*Fertility and Sterility 2007;88:1947-504*).

“The public should be made aware that in poorly selected patients PGS may hurt, rather than help, and only add unnecessary cost to an already very expensive procedure,” states Norbert Gleicher, MD, lead author of the study, Medical Director of CHR, and Visiting Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT.

The authors of the study are available for further comment. The Center for Human Reproduction is a leading clinical and research center in reproductive medicine and infertility located in NYC.