



FERTILITY FACT SHEET

San Ramon / Orinda / San Jose

Selecting an Egg Donor

There are a multitude of factors to consider when selecting an egg donor. Some of the factors that influence donor selection are the physical characteristics, education, intelligence, personal and family medical history, personality, ethnic origin, and genetic history. RSC screens all potential egg donors to confirm that they meet the recommended standards.

Required Testing for Egg Donors

At RSC, all donors complete extensive testing before being approved as donors. RSC looks for women who are in excellent physical and psychological health, who have excellent ovarian reserve, and who have at the very least completed high school (many are currently pursuing higher education). All donors have a complete medical exam (including infectious disease screening and drug screening), a standardized psychological exam, and an in-person meeting with a psychologist for final evaluation. They are also interviewed by a genetic counselor and have thorough genetic testing. The genetic testing includes screening for diseases such as Cystic Fibrosis, Spinal Muscular Atrophy, and Fragile X, amongst others. If the genetics counselor indicates that other testing based on ethnicity or family history is required, this would also be done. While this screening can reduce the risk of certain types of diseases, many diseases are due to multiple factors and are not identifiable with a simple test. You will have the opportunity to review the donor's family and genetic history with a genetic counselor. All RSC donors are anonymous.

We are required by the FDA to perform designated tests and screening for infectious diseases. This involves answering a questionnaire, having a physical exam and providing blood and urine for testing. Anonymous donors must be determined to be "Eligible" according to the FDA guidance in order to be able to donate. This can only be finally determined no more than 30 days prior to eggs being retrieved.

Ovarian Testing

All donors are screened for their ovarian reserve. This includes an ultrasound to assess the number of resting follicles in each ovary and a blood test called an AMH (antimullerian hormone). While RSC sets high standards for donors to qualify for donation, these screening tests do not predict with certainty that a given donor will produce a certain number of eggs or a pregnancy. On the average, approximately 10 - 15 mature eggs are obtained from a donor egg retrieval. Most of the time, recipients will have two to four embryos to freeze. Many patients look for a donor who has had a previously successful cycle. RSC has looked specifically at these outcomes and first time donors have equally high success rates as proven donors. While it is reassuring information to know a donor has produced a pregnancy as a donor before, it also is not a guarantee of a future success. Many other factors, such as uterine factors and sperm factors can influence the outcome. All IVF cycles are reviewed in detail before a donor is made eligible to donate again.

Quality of Care

Through the years, RSC donors have proven to be reliable and responsible. RSC takes pride in the excellent medical care that they provide to the donor. RSC's emphasis is to make the egg donation process a positive experience for the donors. Once donors begin a cycle there is a strong sense of commitment. RSC donors continue to be truly invested in a good outcome for their recipient.

Finding a Donor

RSC's Donor Program Liaison is available to assist patients throughout the donor selection process. You will be assigned an individual password and can view the RSC donor registry on the RSC website. Although RSC has its own donor registry, RSC does not require that you select a donor from our program. If you decide to bring in your own donor (a friend or relative) or decide to work with a private agency, you are welcome to do so. Our RSC screening guidelines are applied to outside agency donors as well.