

## **PREIMPLANTATION DIAGNOSIS**

“Preimplantation genetic diagnosis . . involves the removal of one or more cells from embryos generated by in vitro fertilization (IVF) and analysis of the DNA from those cells. Up to ten embryos may be produced in each cycle of IVF of which only two or three, which have the desired genetic profile are implanted, using standard IVF procedures.” (King 1999: 176)

## **DESCRIPTIONS OF IVF (IN VITRO FERTILIZATION)**

“In vitro fertilization is a technique in which the sperm and egg, instead of meeting in the fallopian tube, are made to meet literally “in glass”--i.e., the test tube (or a dish).”  
(Franklin 1997:104)

“IVF involves collecting eggs from the ovary, putting them together with spermatozoa in a dish, and if those spermatozoa fertilize an egg, putting the embryo or embryos that result into the womb.” (Franklin 1997:104)

## **THE PHYSICAL WORK INVOLVED IN IVF / PGD**

- (1) Initial admission to clinic and tests**
- (2) Ovulation induction (2-3 weeks)**  
injections, tablets, sprays, ultrasound scans  
urine collection/sampling, blood tests
- (3) Aspiration of egg**
- (4) Production of sperm**
- (5) *In vitro* conception**
- (6) Pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD)**
- (7) Embryo transfer back into woman**
- (8) Pregnancy test**
- (9) Selective termination of multiple fetuses**
- (10) Prenatal monitoring**
- (11) Birth (caesarian section, premature birth)**

## **WORK BEYOND THE PHYSICAL IN IVF / PGD PROCEDURES**

(1) Management of emotions

(2) Balancing of the work of IVF / PGD  
with the work of family  
with job and career

(3) Negotiating a world of choice

- choice of whether or not to do IVF/PGD
- choice of clinics and clinicians
- choice of donor egg and sperm
- choice of embryos
- choice to terminate one or more embryos
- choice of whether or not to do multiple  
cycles of IVF

**CULTURAL IDEAS  
ABOUT NATURE, CULTURE  
AND KINSHIP**

**NATURE**

**CULTURE**

**GIVEN**

**CREATED**

**BIOLOGY**

**CHOICE**

**KINSHIP**

**CONTRACT**

**SPERM  
SORTING**

**PGD**

**AMNIO-  
CENTESIS**

**OUTSIDE    INSIDE  
BODY    BODY**

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**PRE-  
CONCEPTION**

**POST-CONCEPTION**

## **RANGE OF POSSIBLE CHOICES IN PREIMPLANTATION DIAGNOSIS**

### **(1) REJECTION OF CHOICE**

### **(2) MEDICAL REASONS**

- screening for chromosomal abnormalities**
- screening for Mendelian diseases**  
**e.g., cystic fibrosis, hemophilia**
- screening for susceptibility conditions**  
**for specific diseases**

### **(3) MEDICAL / INSTRUMENTAL REASONS**

- screening for tissue match**  
**to benefit a 3<sup>rd</sup> person**

### **(4) NON-MEDICAL REASONS**

- screening for sex selection**
- screening for “stygmized” characteristics**
- screening for characteristic preferences**

## **WHOSE CHOICE ??**

**(1) International bodies**

**(2) US federal government**

**Congress**

**US Supreme Court**

**(3) Individual State governments**

**(4) Clinicians**

**(5) Individual (reproducers/consumers)**