

Thinking About Using Donor Eggs?



Egg donation is an effective treatment used by many couples around the world.

There are four situations where egg donation is used:

- Where a woman is not producing any eggs (premature menopause)
- Where a woman has eggs but their number and/or quality is very low
- Where a couple have been through IVF but have had no/low fertilisation
- Where a woman has a genetic disorder she may pass on to a child

Egg donation involves fertilising donor eggs with your partners' sperm and then transferring the embryo or embryos that result into your womb. If the embryo implants, you carry the pregnancy and give birth. You will be the legal mother of the child.

In many countries, donors are anonymous and so no information can be found out about the donor. However, if you have treatment in the UK, the donors are not anonymous. As parents, you cannot find out any identifying information about the donor, but any child that results from egg or sperm donation can, if they so wish, when they reach 18. It is hoped that couples using donor sperm or eggs in the UK will tell their children about their conception. If you have treatment in another country, their national rules will apply.

Some women who donate are having treatment themselves and share their eggs with another woman (an 'egg share' donor) whilst others are not having treatment but go through the process to help other women (an 'altruistic' donor). Donors are screened for genetic diseases such as cystic fibrosis and infections.

For further information please visit the National Gamete Donation Trust web site
www.ngdt.co.uk