

IVF WITH FRESH DONOR EGGS

THE PROCESS

If you are considering going the route of using fresh donor eggs, here is a visualized journey of what you should expect:



01

Search for an egg donor

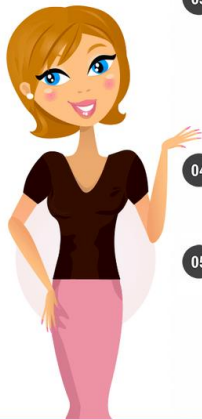
Many individuals work with an agency which can cost between \$5,000 and \$8,000 per cycle to recruit an egg donor. Depending on the unique requirements for the donor (e.g., race, eye color, etc.), this process could take anywhere from one month to several months.



02

Contracts and attorney visit

Once an egg donor is found a contract between the individual and donor is put in place to ensure the rights of the recipient and to relinquish the eggs and ultimate baby from the donor. Typically, this step will involve an attorney.



03

Egg donor testing

The egg donor will then begin her evaluation with base line hormonal testing to determine her suitability to be a donor. She will receive psychological testing, a visit from a social worker or psychologist, and genetic testing.

She will have a full medical history review and physical completed to ensure she is healthy to perform the donation. At any step, the donor could be disqualified and the recipient may need to start again adding to their financial expenditure.

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Mandatory infectious disease testing

All donors are required to have infectious disease testing as determined by the FDA. If the donor tests positive she will be disqualified.

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Recipient workup

Also, the recipient will receive a full medical evaluation, including a complete physical and psychological workup to determine any risk factors.

Tests for the female recipient could include a cervical culture, a hysteroscopy and a hysterosalpingogram or saline sonogram to assess uterine health. The recipient work-up can take three months to complete if the individual is motivated and more if the process is followed more leisurely.

06

'Prep Cycle' or 'Mock Cycle'

This cycle is usually coupled with a trial transfer and a course of hormonal therapy to ensure the treatment will achieve the desired blood levels and endometrial effects. Some doctors will elect to perform an endometrial biopsy during this cycle to measure the thickness of the endometrial stripe.

Typically, a trial transfer is performed during a mock cycle. This procedure is used to discover uterine depth and to ensure the physician can navigate the catheter to the right spot in the uterus. The mock cycle must be timed with a woman's cycle and it takes only 15 days to complete once her cycle starts.



07

Suppression of the normal menstrual cycle and stimulation

The egg donor is given birth control pills to suppress her menstrual cycle and to synchronize it with a recipient.

She will receive hormones as a daily, self-administered injection.

This phase lasts about two weeks and the donor is monitored through blood tests and ultrasound during this time.



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Endometrial lining development for the recipient

While the donor is taking hormones to boost her egg supply, the recipient takes a combination of first estrogen and then progesterone to prepare the uterus for a successful implantation.

Patients with autoimmune issues may require additional medications. Most physician protocols require 12 - 14 days of estrogen prior to triggering ovulation.



09

Triggering ovulation and egg retrieval

Once an ultrasound determines the eggs have developed sufficiently, the donor will trigger ovulation with an injection of HCG.

After thirty-six hours, the eggs are retrieved in a short trans-vaginal procedure using an aspiration needle guided by ultrasound and performed under intra-venous sedation.

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Fertilization and transfer of the embryo

Eggs are retrieved and fertilized with donor sperm or the recipient partner's sperm. In the latter case, the partner will be required to visit the office to provide a sample.

Embryos from this phase are then incubated and implanted in the recipient on either the third or fifth day after fertilization.

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Post retrieval check-up

The donor returns to the office to be evaluated to ensure a full recovery from the procedure. In most cases, the donor can return to normal activity in a day or two after egg retrieval.

For most donors, and without extenuating circumstances, the entire process will take about three to five weeks.

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Post-implantation check-up

Recipients will have a pregnancy test two weeks after implantation. This is accomplished with a blood test measuring the pregnancy hormone HCG.

Once the pregnancy has been confirmed via two rising HCG tests and an ultrasound which looks for the baby's heartbeat, the recipient is discharged to their OB/GYN for prenatal care.