

Definitions of infertility and recurrent pregnancy loss: a committee opinion

Practice Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine

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This document contains the definitions of infertility and recurrent pregnancy loss as defined by the Practice Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. It replaces the document, “Definitions of Infertility and Recurrent Pregnancy Loss: a Committee Opinion,” last published in 2013 (*Fertil Steril* 2013;99:63). (*Fertil Steril*® 2020;113:533–5. ©2019 by American Society for Reproductive Medicine.)

El resumen está disponible en Español al final del artículo.

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Infertility is categorized as a disease by the World Health Organization, a designation supported by numerous professional associations including the American Medical Association, the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology, the International Committee for Monitoring Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ICMART) and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (1–4).

Infertility is a disease* historically defined by the failure to achieve a successful pregnancy after 12 months or more of regular, unprotected sexual intercourse or due to an impairment of a person’s capacity to reproduce either as an individual or with her/his partner.

Infertility is a disease which generates disability as an impairment of function. Diagnostic testing for infertility should be initiated without delay upon presentation in any patient with a medical history, sexual or reproductive history, advanced age or physical findings that suggest the possibility of impaired reproductive function. In the absence of exigent history or physical findings, evaluation should, and

treatment may be, initiated at 12 months in women under 35 years of age and at 6 months in women age 35 or older. In women over 40 more immediate evaluation and treatment may be warranted (2).

Donor Insemination is the process of placing laboratory-processed sperm into the reproductive tract of a woman from a man who is not her intimate sexual partner for the purpose of initiating a pregnancy (2). Cycle fecundity is significantly lower when donor insemination is performed using cryopreserved donor sperm when compared to use of fresh sperm (5). In individuals or couples using cryopreserved donor sperm who fail to achieve pregnancy consideration should be given to performing an evaluation and initiating treatment sooner than 12 months for women under 35 years of age and 6 months for women age 35 or older.

Recurrent pregnancy loss is a disease distinct from infertility, defined by the spontaneous loss of two or more pregnancies. With disease being defined per *Dorland’s Illustrated Medical Dictionary* (29th

ed) as, “any deviation from or interruption of the normal structure or function of any part, organ, or system of the body as manifested by characteristic symptoms and signs; the etiology, pathology, and prognosis may be known or unknown” (6). Each pregnancy loss merits careful review to determine whether specific evaluation of the woman or couple may be appropriate (2).

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Definiciones de infertilidad y pérdida recurrente del embarazo: una opinión del comité

Este documento contiene las definiciones de infertilidad y pérdida recurrente de embarazo según lo definido por el Comité de Práctica de la Sociedad Americana de Medicina Reproductiva. Reemplaza el documento, "Definiciones de Infertilidad y Pérdida Recurrente de Embarazo: una opinión del Comité," publicado por última vez en 2013.