

FACTS ABOUT INFERTILITY

Definition:

Infertility is defined as the inability to conceive after a year of unprotected intercourse (six months if the woman is over age 35) or the inability to carry a pregnancy to live birth.

Prevalence:

- ❑ 6.1 million men and women in the United States are infertile
- ❑ 1 in 6 couples is infertile
- ❑ 40% of infertility cases are attributable to the woman and 30% are attributable to the man
- ❑ Roughly 20% of cases are related to both the man and woman
- ❑ For 10% of couples, the cause of infertility is never discovered; but fertility treatment can be effective regardless of whether or not the cause is known

Conception: What Are the Odds?

- ❑ The chance of getting pregnant naturally in any given month is only about 25% for the first 3 months of trying and decreases quickly after that
- ❑ After 3 months of trying, 60% of couples will conceive naturally
- ❑ 85% of couples will conceive by the end of the first year
- ❑ The remaining 15% of couples may require fertility treatment to conceive

Treatment Statistics (1997 Assisted Reproductive Technologies Success Rates):

- ❑ 24% of all infertile couples seeking advanced infertility treatment (i.e., IVF) achieved live births
- ❑ Of the pregnancies resulting from advanced infertility treatment, 50.1% will result in a single birth, 25.9% will result in twins, 5.3% in triplets or greater and the balance in miscarriages or other types of pregnancy loss

Infertility and Insurance Coverage (RESOLVE):

- ❑ Approximately two-thirds of people seeking medical treatment for infertility will give birth
- ❑ Only 5% of people undergoing infertility treatment need the advanced reproductive technologies; the majority of people, 95%, are treated with simple drug therapy or surgical procedures
- ❑ An estimated \$2.6 billion was spent on infertility treatment in the U.S. in 1996, representing only 0.25% of the total healthcare budget