

Happy Holidays!
From Drs. Hummel and Kettel and their staff

Upcoming Events:

December 3, 2002, 6pm
Embryology Lab Evening
"Mystery Behind the Microscope"
sponsored by Sigma-tau
HealthScience, Inc.

December 4, 2002, 7:30am-12pm
Bagel Day: SDFC's Egg Donation
Program sponsored by Organon

Tip of the Month:

After an IUI treatment, the chance for implantation increases dramatically if you lay down for 10 minutes immediately after the transfer. If you have an IVF transfer, plan to stay 30 minutes after the transfer. Then three days of bed rest at home.

Quote of the Month:

"We received very personal care and we felt very much a part of decision making. The staff and doctor have a great sense of humor! The doctor spent a lot of time with us, until we felt comfortable with the information; we never felt rushed." Patient's answer when asked what they like best about the care received at SDFC.

Coming Soon:

SDFC is in the process to upgrade to a new computer software tool for the Center's patient management. The state-of-the-art program called "Millbrook" will make scheduling and data management much easier resulting in less waiting times and increased convenience for patients.

Newsletter Subscription:

Receive our monthly newsletter per email and stay informed about fertility issues! Subscribe by sending an email to newsletter@sdfertility.com.

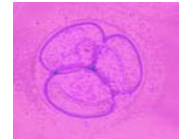
A Woman's Biological Clock Keeps Ticking Over 50

A new study published in last month's Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) shows a women's biological clock in a new light. The study concluded that women over the age of 50 can try to become pregnant if they use in-vitro fertilization and donated eggs.

Drs. Hummel and Kettel, offering one of the largest egg donation programs in California, confirm that the pregnancy rates of their female patients over 40 using egg donation is similar to the age of the egg donor. "Pregnancy rates depend on the quality of the egg which in case of egg donation comes from a woman in her twenties", states Dr. Hummel, "The fact that the woman is post-menopausal has no negative effect on pregnancy success, but may effect her health."

Drs. Hummel and Kettel inform their patients about health risks, which significantly increase with pregnancy for all women over age 50. Because of the increased risks of preeclamsia (pregnancy-induced hypertension) and gestational diabetes, Drs. Hummel and Kettel help only women below 50 years of age to achieve pregnancy. "The risks endanger the health of the patient to an extent we recommend egg donation with surrogacy for women over the age of 51," says Dr. Kettel.

Although the study redefines a woman's biological clock, it doesn't address any issues the woman has to deal with once the baby is born. The woman has to be aware that raising a child takes a lot of energy and she will be older than many other mothers. In some cases, she may be in her seventies when her child enters college.



IVF and egg donation extends the biological clock into overtime.

Small Advances Contribute to Higher Success Rates

More and more baby-making challenged couples coming to SDFC become parents thanks to improved technology. Drs. Hummel and Kettel estimate the current success rate to be about 50 percent per cycle of treatment compared to 14 percent 20 years ago.

One technique that dramatically increased success rates was the development of ICSI (intracytoplasmic sperm injection) in 1992. ICSI, where a single sperm is injected into a single egg, gives many men dealing with low to zero sperm counts the opportunity to have children. However, small developments that seem very trivial have contributed to higher success as well. For example, the use of a soft catheter to transfer embryos into the woman's uterus instead of a stiff catheter. Using a soft catheter the physician avoids creating irritation in the uterine lining, which may prevent implantation of the embryo. Ultrasound guided placement of embryos has also added precision of the embryo transfer. Another positive impact has been the advance in cryopreservation or freezing of sperm and embryos. Freezing of reproductive cells maximizes the efficiency of fertility treatment and gives women a better chance of having a family.



SDFC's Free Fertility Seminar is Most Popular Event of the Year



Attendees were able to ask questions during a Q&A session.

Last month's fertility seminar open to the public was better attended than ever before. Besides seminar topics such as IVF, blastocyst transfer, PGD, etc., visitors were able to ask questions and were invited to take a tour through the Center. An exhibit of 18 booths prior to the seminar offered information about helpful resources from infertility acupuncturists, egg donor and surrogate agencies, counseling services and support groups, male fertility specialists and lawyers specialized in egg donation. Since the Center reached its maximum capacity of attendees, Drs. Hummel and Kettel are considering a seminar spread over two consecutive evenings. The next fertility seminar is tentatively scheduled for May 21/22, 2003.

