

FERTILITY

Patient guidance

5. Donor sperm treatment

Donor sperm treatment

In accordance with the existing legislation, there is freedom of choice regarding donation type. This means that you must decide which donation type you want before your fertility treatment can be commenced. The four types are described below.

Anonymous sperm donation

In anonymous sperm donation, you will only receive information about a basic profile containing the following details about the donor: height, weight, eye colour, hair colour and skin colour. Information about the donor's blood type can also be obtained if this is regarded as necessary for health reasons.

The anonymity is reciprocal, which means that a sperm donor cannot receive information about you and any child subsequently born after you have received treatment with his sperm.

Non-anonymous sperm donation

Sperm donation with extended profile

Sperm donation with extended profile is non-anonymous sperm donation where it is possible to obtain more information about the sperm donor at the time of donation than what is contained in the basic profile.

For example, the donor catalogue of the sperm bank may contain information about the donor's occupation, leisure interests, education and training, voice sample, baby photos or the like. However, the donor's identity cannot be disclosed at any time, nor is it possible for any child to receive information about the donor's identity.

Likewise, a donor can never obtain information about any children born after the mother has received treatment with his sperm.

Open sperm donation

In open sperm donation, the sperm donor's identity is not known to you at the time of the donation, but the donor has agreed with the sperm bank that it will subsequently be possible for any child to receive information about the sperm donor's identity or, as a minimum, certain additional details.

It is most often agreed that the child will be able to obtain information about the sperm donor's identity when the child turns 18. A sperm donor can never become a putative father or obtain information about any children born after the recipient has been treated with his sperm.

Known donation

In known sperm donation, the sperm donor's identity is known to you at the time of the donation. You choose the sperm donor yourself.

Before a man can be approved as a known sperm donor, he must be screened and risk assessed by a sperm bank, and his sperm quality must be suitable for fertility treatment.

By his signature, the sperm donor can accept the treatment and thus also acknowledge paternity of any child and that the child will become the donor's legal heir.

An exemption from the rules on paternity is the situation in which a known sperm donor donates sperm to a woman who is married or cohabiting with a partner who has consented to the treatment and thus accepted paternity or co-motherhood.

If a known sperm donor donates sperm to a single woman, he always becomes the legal father of the child.

Information about hereditary diseases

Under the Danish Act on Artificial Fertilisation (Lov om kunstig befrugtning), we are obliged to ensure that you are aware of the following:

"When selecting donors, the risk of passing on hereditary diseases, abnormalities, malformations etc. has been limited as much as possible by only using donors who have indicated that they are not aware of any such hereditary risks in their family and who have been interviewed and examined by an experienced healthcare professional to determine this. Despite these special precautions, a hereditary risk cannot be ruled out entirely.

If, against expectation, the child has a health deficiency at birth or in his or her first years of life that you are told may be hereditary, it is therefore important that you report back to the fertility clinic so that a decision can be made as to whether to continue to use the donor in question. The same applies if you are informed that the deficiency may concern a communicable disease.

Even though the donor has tested negative for communicable diseases such as HIV and hepatitis, the risk is never zero, and you can never check for everything."

We should also point out that information may subsequently emerge about hereditary disease in the donor, which results in the donor being blocked and no longer being eligible.

A donor may be blocked many years after the donation as some hereditary diseases only manifest themselves late in the donor's life. If your donor sperm treatment results in the birth of a child and there is subsequently information about the donor which means that the donor is blocked in accordance with the current rules of the Danish Patient Safety Authority, you will be notified until the child turns 18.

When the child turns 18, he or she may, in principle, be contacted directly.

Ordering donor sperm

You must order donor sperm in the sperm bank before each new treatment start. Sperm is only supplied for one treatment at a time. It is important that you order the sperm when registering for the treatment at the fertility clinic.

Once you have chosen the type of sperm donation you wish to use, you will receive the relevant consent form for signing.

You then yourself choose a sperm donor from a sperm bank's catalogue by clicking on a link on our website.

To be approved as sperm donors, the donors must undergo several medical examinations and have 'healthy' medical histories. The fertility clinic has no personal knowledge of the donors.

Change of sperm donor

It may be an advantage to use a new sperm donor if you do not get pregnant with the first donor choice after 2-3 treatments.

Sperm depot

You may reserve and store sperm from the same donor in a sperm depot at the sperm bank. This will enable you to use the same sperm donor for subsequent siblings.

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Gyngemose Parkvej 66
DK - 2860 Søborg

Tel. +45 3817 0740

www.aleris-fertility.dk