

Importance of Ethical Issues while Implementing Reproductive Technologies in Health Science

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ABOUT THE STUDY

Reproductive medicine, with its rapid advancements and developments, has transformed the view of family planning and fertility treatments. While these improvements offer new hope and possibilities, they also raise complex ethical questions that challenge the boundaries of medical practice and societal values. These technologies include *In Vitro* Fertilization (IVF), Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI), and Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer (GIFT). They offer solutions for individuals or couples facing challenges in conceiving naturally, addressing issues such as infertility, genetic disorders, or age-related fertility decline. Reproductive technologies have transformed family planning, providing opportunities for assisted reproduction and improving the chances of successful pregnancies, contributing to advancements in the field of reproductive medicine.

Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART)

Selective embryo reduction: In cases where multiple embryos are implanted during IVF to increase the chances of a successful pregnancy, the occurrence of multiple pregnancies requires consideration of the health risks for both the mother and the foetus. Selective embryo reduction, the process of reducing the number of foetuses to a manageable and safer number, poses ethical questions related to the value of each individual life and the potential psychological impact on the parents.

Egg and sperm donation: The use of donor eggs or sperm in fertility treatments introduces ethical factors to take into account before sharing your identity, the right to know one's genetic origins, and the potential due to unexpected relationship when donors contribute to multiple families.

Genetic interventions

The ability to control and select genes through Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) and gene editing technologies

introduces ethical considerations related to the potential for designer babies, the eradication of genetic disorders, and the unintended consequences of fixing with the human germline.

Designer babies and eugenics: The concept of "designer babies," where genetic traits can be selected or improved, raises concerns about the potential for societal pressure to follow to certain physical or intellectual standards. This intersects with broader ethical questions about eugenics and the effects of selecting specific traits in search of an idealized human.

Informed consent and genetic testing: The increasing availability of genetic testing and the information it provides create challenges with relation to informed participation. Individuals undergoing genetic testing may face problems about the effects of the information revealed, especially when it belong to conditions with no immediate treatment.

Gene editing and germline interventions: The development of Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) and other gene-editing technologies raises reflective ethical questions about the durability of genetic modifications and the potential unplanned consequences for future generations.

Access and equity

Reproductive medicine also highlights differences in access to fertility treatments and the potential for impairing existing social inequalities.

Financial barriers: Fertility treatments, especially advanced procedures like IVF, can be financially difficult, leading to questions about who has access to these technologies and the potential for creating a divide between those who can afford such treatments and those who cannot

Cultural and social implications: Different cultural and religious perspectives on reproduction and family formation contribute to ethical challenges in reproductive medicine.

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Practices such as gender selection, which may be acceptable in some cultures, are thought ethically questionable in others, leading to cultural clashes and ethical problems for healthcare providers.

Maternal-fetal conflict: Situations where the best interests of the mother conflict with those of the foetus raise complex ethical questions. Balancing the autonomy of the pregnant individual with the potential welfare of the unborn child requires careful consideration and respect for individual choices.

End-of-life decisions in reproductive medicine: Ethical dilemmas may arise in cases where the life of the mother or the fetus is at risk, leading to decisions about ending a pregnancy to preserve the health and well-being of one or both sides. These situations involve considering the rights and autonomy of all individuals involved.

CONCLUSION

As reproductive medicine continues to advance, the ethical scene surrounding fertility treatments becomes increasingly complicated. Balancing the recreation of scientific progress with the preservation of individual rights, societal values, and global considerations requires ongoing dialogue and ethical reflection. Addressing the ethical issues in reproductive medicine requires a co-operative effort involving healthcare professionals, policymakers, ethicists, and the public to establish guidelines that ensure responsible and reasonable practices. In directing this evolving environment, it is important to support the principles of autonomy, justice to safeguard the well-being of individuals, families, and society at large.