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USC Physicians Make Strides in Proving Efficacy of Oocyte Cryopreservation
Keck School of Medicine researchers unveil interim study data at
61st Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine

MONTREAL (October 17, 2005)—Fertility researchers from the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles today announced the first findings from their ongoing clinical trial on oocyte cryopreservation.

John K. Jain, M.D., and Richard J. Paulson, M.D., physicians from USC Fertility, the nonprofit fertility practice at USC, reported an unprecedented pregnancy success rate of 63% resulting from the use of frozen eggs.

Richard J. Paulson, MD, FACOG
Chief,
Division of Reproductive
Endocrinology and Infertility
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

This early success rate is reflective of five out of the first eight study volunteers—out of a total number of 20 participants aged 35 or less—achieving pregnancy following oocyte retrieval, cryopreservation, thaw, fertilization, and transfer back to the patient as embryos.

John K. Jain, MD, FACOG
Associate Professor of
Obstetrics and Gynecology

The research project, which was begun in September 2004, is unique in that it is the first organized prospective study in which all of the eggs taken from each candidate in a single aspiration were frozen.

Karine Chung, MD, MSCE
Assistant Professor of
Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology

“This is very exciting news,” said Jain. “Our interim study data show that oocyte cryopreservation has become a viable clinical option. Our experience suggests that efficacy is much higher than previously thought and that we have turned a corner.”

Jain, associate professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Keck School, is principal investigator on the self-funded study. Paulson, chief of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility and professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Keck School, is co-investigator. USC Fertility Laboratory Director Mary Francis, B.A., T.S., is the project’s lead embryologist.

“Much of this early success can be attributed to how well the new culture medium is working,” said Francis. “We’ve been able to use our standard embryo-freezing equipment with only a few, very minor adjustments.”

“While our sample is small and our data are still preliminary,” added Paulson, “we are nonetheless highly optimistic that this high rate of success will continue in the future.”

Jain, Francis, and Paulson plan to publish their complete conclusions at study’s end in early 2006.

The division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California.

USC Fertility is a leader in fertility-related clinical research and is dedicated to developing treatment breakthroughs and providing all potential parents reliable and scientifically tested alternatives for building families today and tomorrow. For more information visit www.USCFertility.org or call (213) 975-9990.

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