

QUESTIONS TO ASK
If You are Considering Treatment
at a SART-Accredited Clinic Outside the United States (#18)

by Diane N. Clapp, BSN, RN
Medical Information Director, National RESOLVE

Consumers considering the option of using assisted reproductive technologies (ART), may hear of ART clinics outside the United States which report good success rates. The following questions should help the consumer evaluate if these clinics are an appropriate option for them.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Is the clinic accredited by the organization that regulates ART clinics in the country in which it operates?
2. If the clinic is in a non-English speaking country, are translators available at the clinic?
3. What are payment fees and schedules? Must payment be in appropriate foreign currency? What, if any, insurance forms are needed?

TRAVEL AND HOUSING

1. Do you and your partner both have a current passport? If not, it can take several weeks to get one. There is a fee for a passport.
2. What are the estimated transportation costs for both you and your partner? Can you change the dates of an airline reservation without having to pay additional costs if your cycle date changes and thus your travel plans change?
3. What are the estimated costs of housing and meals during the cycle? Will you need to purchase meals or are cooking facilities available where you will be staying?
4. Is the housing located near public transportation? How far is it from the clinic? Will you need to rent a car?
5. If you have to transport drugs and/or needles with you through customs, is any written documentation required?
6. If you will be using frozen sperm, do you need to bring the sperm with you? Do you need to buy a transport container?

COORDINATION OF CARE

1. During your stay in the foreign country, who will be available to give you injections?
2. At what point during the cycle do you need to be at the clinic? Can you arrange to have ovulation induction and monitoring done at a local clinic in the United States, then travel to the foreign clinic for egg retrieval and embryo transfer?
3. How many days will your partner be required to stay with you?
4. After embryo transfer, how long will you be required to stay at the clinic?
5. Will the foreign clinic monitor your pregnancy test results and progesterone levels after you return home? (Can you set up an arrangement in advance between your local clinic and the foreign clinic to provide such monitoring?)
6. Can you get a complete copy of your medical records sent to your physician in the United States after you have completed a cycle?
7. If you have cryopreserved extra embryos, must you return to the clinic outside the United States to use them? If not, what are the procedures for transferring embryos to a clinic in the United States? (Ask about customs, forms, restrictions on carrying human tissue?) Will you need to buy a transport container?

Additional issues to consider:

- ! In the event of complications such as hyperstimulation or adverse drug effect, who will monitor your care?
- ! If you have a complication after pregnancy, who will be the physician who will monitor your care?

Further information on this topic is available through RESOLVE fact sheets. For a publications order form, please contact the local chapter or National RESOLVE Office at 1310 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144-1731 or 617/623-0744.

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