



RESOLVE
National Office

Infertility: Education Advocacy Support

1310 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144-1779

Business Office: 617/623-1156

HelpLine: 617-623-0744, FAX: 617/623-0252

Web site: www.resolve.org

QUESTIONS TO ASK

When Using the Internet for Infertility Information (#23)

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

If you have used the Internet to connect with others experiencing infertility either through "alt.infertility," "alt.adoption," infertility news groups, people connecting forums, message boards, or home pages, you may want to consider the following questions:

- ! Is the person communicating on-line in the same situation as you in terms of age, diagnosis, and partner's fertility?
- ! Is the information provided from the perspective of an "unsuccessful" or "successful" patient?
- ! Are costs for treatment and possible travel discussed?
- ! Are references and resources listed?
- ! Is sponsorship or commercial funding clearly listed if relevant?
- ! Is the posted information dated so you can tell how current it is?
- ! If you are getting information from a home page, is the site linked to other sites on related topics? If not, the home page may be presenting only one viewpoint on an issue.
- ! If a clinic or physician being recommended, are they listed in the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology Report, which can be ordered by calling: 205-978-5000.
- ! Is the physician being recommended included on the National RESOLVE Physician Referral List?
- ! Ask yourself if you are being impacted by other people's personal stories. Don't base your medical work-up or treatment options just on the personal stories of others. Do take notes and ask your specialist what his/her opinion is about a particular test or treatment. Ask about the pros and cons.
- ! Keep in mind that the Internet is an excellent vehicle of communication that can provide information, but it also can be a sophisticated and subtle form of advertisement. Be a wise, informed consumer/patient.

** No information on the Internet is a substitute for medical advice from your doctor.

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