

Definitions of infertility and recurrent pregnancy loss

Practice Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine

American Society for Reproductive Medicine, Birmingham, Alabama

Infertility is a disease,* defined by the failure to achieve pregnancy after 12 months or more of regular unprotected intercourse. Earlier evaluation and treatment may be justified based on medical history and physical findings and is warranted after 6 months for women over age 35 years.

Recurrent pregnancy loss is a disease* distinct from infertility, defined by two or more failed pregnancies. When the cause is unknown, each pregnancy loss merits careful review to determine whether specific evaluation may be

appropriate. After three or more losses, a thorough evaluation is warranted.

For purposes of determining when evaluation and treatment for infertility or for recurrent pregnancy loss is appropriate, pregnancy is defined as a clinical pregnancy documented by ultrasonography or histopathologic examination.

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*Disease is "any deviation from or interruption of the normal structure or function of any part, organ, or system of the body as manifested by characteristic symptoms and signs; the etiology, pathology, and prognosis may be known or unknown." From: *Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary*, 31st edition, 2007:535.

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