

2018 Gap Analysis and Educational Needs (Annual Meeting 2017)

Developed by the ASRM Continuing Medical Education Committee

TOPIC	GAP(S) IDENTIFIED	EDUCATIONAL NEED(S)
Access to care	Ethnic, cultural and language barriers in fertility care	Strategies to provide culturally competent care
	Financial hardship in uptake of fertility technologies from endometrial evaluations to PGT-A	Strategies to improve access of these technologies
	Communication with community and insurance companies	Ways to “lobby” for insurance coverage. Use of philanthropy for those without insurance coverage and inability to pay
	Influence insurance and payer coverage which limits patient access to care	Learn how to advocate for expansion of services covered by payers, particularly infertility treatment and fertility preservation
	Awareness of disparity in care patterns for leiomyoma patients	Standardization of care for leiomyoma patients
Andrology / Male Infertility	When is testicular sperm indicated in the presence of sperm in the ejaculate	Evidence on using testicular vs. ejaculated sperm in the absence of azoospermia?
	Adoption and approach to care with new technology in male infertility	Implementation strategies for appropriate workup and for new technology treatment options for male infertility
	Whether to pursue concomitant male and female partner fertility consults with urology and RE	Considerations in simultaneous urology and REI evaluations for the infertile couple
ART	Counseling about freeze all cycles	Fresh transfer versus freeze all cycles. Optimal FET protocols
	Which is better: mild versus standard ovarian stimulation? Which is better: GnRHa versus GnRHa and hCG trigger ?	Ovarian stimulation strategies Risks and benefits of dual hCG/GnRHa triggers
	Retain sperm and oocyte donors throughout the process of medical and counseling sessions.	Discussion among mental health professionals and dissemination of this information to staff dealing with donors
	Endometrial scratch test	Education/Consensus on the usefulness of the test
	Batch cycles are difficult to manage for dynamic responses to poor responses due to previous ovarian suppression	Discussion of the pros and cons of managing ‘batched’ patients in regard to ability to make changes to stimulation
	Evaluation of the endometrium after pregnancy loss	Best practice for post loss testing
	Implementation of endometrial receptivity assay	Review of clinical results and the science behind the assay
	Use of freeze-all for elevated progesterone	When to employ cryopreserved embryos
	Role of Endometrial Receptivity Analysis (ERA)	Use Endometrial Receptivity Analysis (ERA) to improve patient outcomes

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	Techniques for embryo transfer	Transfer tips (slower syringe depression etc)
	Optimizing patient outcomes in clinics	Mechanisms for quality and outcome measurement
ART Laboratory	Optimization of oocyte freezing protocols	What are optimal oocyte and embryo freezing protocols?
	Single versus sequential culture media	Considerations in selecting embryo culture media
	Discern reliable, unbiased information about commercial culture media.	Review of clinical study literature
	Reporting data is burdensome	Workshop on data entry and best practices
	Humid versus dry incubators for embryo culture	Fact/fiction—review of available studies
	Importance of pH in embryo development	Educational session
	Adoption and implementation of new technologies; how and when to make a change, and how to revise current protocols to stay on top of patient and laboratory needs	Interactive session to take advantage of others experiences
	Communication between MDs and the ART lab; conversations about treatment regiments and laboratory strategies	Dialog to improve individual patient care
	Is time lapse imaging a reliable way to diagnose aneuploidy?	Current state of the art, hear from experts in the field
	Lab design for outcome improvement; air quality, toxin detection, environment, lab design	Education on the state of the art products available to create an optimum lab environment
	Risk and disaster management: lab safety, alarm systems, disaster preparedness	Educational session and interactive sharing
	Training a new generation of clinical laboratory technologists; paradigm shift, available educational tools, and new learning technologies and trends	Discussion of best practices, evolving methodology
	Status of embryo quality assessment OTHER THAN morphology and PGT-A. Is there a way to cryopreserve and PGT-A fewer embryos?	Review, lecture, interactive discussion on best practices and evolving recommendations
	What to do with abandoned embryos? And how can we implement ASRM recommendations? A difficult position.	Frank discussions on not only recommendations, but logistics, ethical concerns, psychological effect on lab technologists
	Safety of stored specimens	Best practices
	Embryo evaluation PGT	Hands on training for embryo evaluation and PGT

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	Patient awareness and knowledge of new laboratory techniques	Strategies on how to inform patients of latest lab developments
	Gamete and embryo selection which correlates to successful outcomes	In vitro maturation techniques for oocytes Non-invasive preimplantation embryo testing techniques Culture fluid biomarkers to assess embryo health
	Skill development for ART Laboratory techniques and training a new generation	Work shops for embryo biopsy, ICSI, hatching, and skill development
Biology of Reproduction	Uterine receptivity/embryo implantation	Emerging technologies, scientific advancements
	Origins of aneuploidy and mosaicism	Basic science presentation
	Extended embryo culture	Review of Days 0-7, discussion of experimental technologies past D7, applications, ethical concerns
	Discuss individualized patient care with assessment of endometrial receptivity	Performance and utilization of endometrial receptivity testing
	Evaluate the impact of hormonal contraction on reproductive aging	Discussion of the hormonal physiology involved in future development of gyn malignancy
	Comprehensive understanding of male reproductive biology	Review of male reproductive physiology
Complementary/ Alternative Medicine	Better communicate with patients about ways to optimize reproductive and overall health by improving diet and environmental risk factors	Compile guidelines, communicate to providers and patients
	Complementary medicine techniques that may enhance infertility outcomes	Integrating complementary/alternative medicine practices into allopathic infertility treatment plans
Cost Effectiveness	Cost effectiveness of PGS and time lapse embryo assessment	Session with debate regarding the cost effectiveness of these procedures
	Most cost efficient care	Evidence-based data on less high-tech better or more high tech for patient outcomes
Contraception	Lack of understanding of contraceptive method as a preventive	Impact on prevention given contraceptive choice
Counseling	Counseling of donors and gestational carriers	Information on counseling techniques
	Counseling for appropriate genetic screening of donors	Session on deployment of genetic testing in gamete donors
	Mental health professionals and genetic counseling	Strategies to assist health care personnel on counseling patients on results of genetic testing

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Endometriosis	New developments in endometriosis diagnosis and treatment	Best practices (evidence-based) education in endometriosis care and role in infertility Earlier diagnosis of endometriosis Algorithmic approach to endometriosis
Ethics/ Legal	Informed consent in transfer of mosaic embryos.	Strategies and considerations in transfer of mosaic embryos
	Legal considerations surrounding transfer of mosaic embryos	Best practices in transfer of mosaic embryos
	Achieving informed consent in ART	Best practices and considerations in informed consent process
	Unclear legal protections/ramifications of transferring a mosaic embryo resulting in birth of an affected child	Communication between legal professionals and doctors, strategies for good medical practice and legal protection
	Discuss the most appropriate thing to do with PGT-A abnormal embryos/Mosaics	Ethical implications, responsibilities, toll on lab personnel. Best practices, psychological and ethical advice
	Safety of stored specimens	Liability
	Consents for third party reproduction	Session on third party reproduction consents
	Consents for Genetic Counselors and donors	Techniques to inform and consent patients
	Ethics of using new technologies	Information on ethics of using CRISPR and mitochondrial replacement
	Psychological support for donors	Instruction on counseling techniques
Environmental	Delivery of information on environmental and nutrition on fertility	Approaches to counseling on environmental and nutritional impact on fertility
	Environmental impact on epigenetics	Update on influence of environment on infertility -particularly epigenetics
Fertility Preservation	Fertility preservation patients psychosocial and long-term needs	Counseling, informed consent of patients undergoing fertility preservation Insurance coverage
	Indications for ovarian tissue cryopreservation (OTC) and uterine transplant	Update on ovarian tissue cryopreservation (OTC) and uterine transplant
	Approach for patients desiring fertility preservation including barriers to fertility preservation in oncology patients	Algorithmic approach to fertility preservation
	Prevention of infertility	Healthcare and patient counseling strategies for the prevention of infertility
Leiomyomas	Considerations in choosing surgical approach for myomectomy	Risks and benefits of surgical approaches to myomectomies (laparoscopic, open, robotic)

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	Indications for myomectomy in infertility	Risks and benefits of surgical approaches to myomectomies Algorithmic approach to the management of leiomyoma
Genetics/PGD	Indications for which PGT-A platform to use	Strategies to determine whether to choose PGT-A results that include mosaicism how do you decide whether to transfer mosaic embryos
	Transfer of mosaic embryos	Decision matrix on transfer of mosaic embryos including scientific and clinical evidence on both sides
	Indications for PGT-A	Update about the patients that most benefit from PGT-A, as well as those that are not
	Mosaic embryos transfer	Education by genetic counselors for doctors, nurses and embryologists
	Rapid changes in testing and counseling	Update session on new methodologies, reporting, result interpretation
	Unclear information about mosaic embryo transfer from test providers	Overview discussion of test report meaning and interpretation from an expert
	What are the newest PGT technologies and how do they compare?	Overview, include history, current and future platforms, pros and cons, and barriers
	Discarding PGT abnormal embryos	Discussions about differences between abnormal embryos, how data is interpreted and reported, and dealing with jobs ethically, morally, and psychologically
Imaging	Access to training for 3D U/S to evaluate uterine abnormalities	Opportunities to be trained on 3D U/S (hands on training), instruction and interpretation
Infertility	Lifestyle and fertility	Nutrition, mental health, stress, and wellness for infertility patients
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender	Culturally appropriate care and terminology	Informed discussions on transgender care and terminology.
	Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender fertility	Develop resources specifically designed for LGBT health concerns
Menopause/Ovarian Insufficiency	Approach for the poor responder	Current and potentially future approaches Cost efficient and future approaches to menopause/ovarian insufficiency
PCOS/Androgen Excess	Risks and history of treatments in ovulation induction	Risks and benefits of using aromatase inhibitors in ovulation induction
	Treatments for obesity	Education on medical treatment of obesity

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Mental Health	Genetic counseling	Impact on mental health
	Use of anti-obesity meds in the treatment of PCOS	Education about medical treatment of obesity
	Counseling	Mental Health Interventions (more than assessments)
	Lifestyle/weight loss coaching in the PCOS patient	Ways to motivate the obese patient to improve lifestyle habits
	Role of bariatric surgery and the PCOS/obese patient	Improved information and counseling PCOS patients about weight loss surgery
Practice/ Risk Management/ Team-based Care	Quality psychotherapy session in a short amount of time that build trust with the patient	Genetic counselors provide trust building sessions with multidisciplinary team to give pointers.
	Staff education and training	Guidance, tips and tricks to educate, develop and train staff, and standardize roles of nurses and embryologists from practice to practice
	Management of barriers to practice growth	Stepwise approach to growth of an REI practice
	Website, social media, and patient communication	Use of communication technology to increase market share and improve patient retention
	Staff and provider burnout in the field of reproductive health care	Learn identification and strategies to address staff and provider burnout
	Counseling for patients about disclosure to children about the use of donors, and potentially donor ID	Multidisciplinary approach/ best practices about disclosure to children
Pregnancy/ Pregnancy Loss	Uterine and chromosomal causes of pregnancy loss	Evidence-based evaluation of endometrium, uterine factor, and embryo factor in pregnancy loss
	Strategies to evaluate the endometrium of patients with Recurrent Pregnancy Loss (RPL)	Evidence on endometrial receptivity evaluation
	Nongenetic causes of pregnancy loss	Improve ability to identify and treat nongenetic causes of Recurrent Pregnancy Loss (RPL)
	Use of PGT in patients with RPL	Better counseling in patients considering PGT for RPL
	Preclinical and early pregnancy losses	Evidence-based evaluation for patients with isolated and recurrent early pregnancy loss
Reproductive Surgery	Skill development and knowledge of techniques in reproductive surgery	Simulations and surgical demonstrations in hysteroscopy, difficult laparoscopy, microsurgery, fertility preservation surgery, and robotic skills

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	Identification and optimization of patients with Mullerian anomalies considering surgery	Counseling of patients considering surgery
	Surgical management of uterine septum	Evaluation of different resection techniques and tools
	Utilization of 3D US and MRI as pre-surgical evaluation	Improved education about 3D US and MRI as imaging modalities and how they can optimize surgical outcomes
	Identification and optimization of patients with either leiomyoma or endometriosis	Counseling of patients considering surgery and evaluation of different resection techniques and tools
Stem Cells	Artificial gametes, are we there and will we ever be there clinically?	Expert presentation from basic science in animal models, discussion of clinical application
	Therapeutic applications of stem cells in reproduction	Research presentations from experts in animal models, what does the future hold
	Stem cell 101; what are they, how do they impact ART, history, technology progress and potential	Education from active labs
	Conditions amenable to future utilization of stem cell therapies	Further advances in stem cell therapies
Technology	Difficult to change long-standing protocols, care strategies, tradition in a clinic	Strategies for implementing new evidence/technology into clinical care Medical device development and industry education
	Incorporation of new devices into current practice	How to assess the utility and use of a new device in one's practice.
	Knowledge of PGT Utilization and Methodology	Understanding of scenarios wherein Utilization of PGT is appropriate
Miscellaneous	Interpreting clinical studies	Evaluation of clinical studies