COVID 19 As a Global Issue in Reproductive Health

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Mission: To stimulate research, disseminate educational information, and promote superior clinical care of patients in all aspects of reproductive and fertility medicine.

Vision: All women and men have access to quality fertility and reproductive health care

Members: 65 U.N. country-specific fertility societies (>50,000 reproductive HCPs and individuals)

NSA (NGO) in official relations with WHO

online journal:
Some Key Issues Relevant to Sexual and Reproductive Health During the COVID 19 Pandemic

- What are the risks of COVID19 across gestation on pregnancy outcomes for women, the fetus, and the newborn?
- What are essential services during the COVID19 pandemic and relevance to reproductive health care?
- What are the risks associated with SARS-CoV-2 in reproductive health settings, including surgery, ART laboratory and practices and for those with endometriosis?
- Is there vertical transmission from mother to fetus?
- What is the significance of SARS-CoV-2 virus found in semen?
- Is it advised to pursue natural conception during this pandemic?
- Reproductive health/fertility societies have evolving recommendations about providing ART and other fertility therapies
- How can patients and ART practices, including the IVF laboratory, resume safely for patients, staff, trainees and communities?
- The value of registries for pregnancy outcomes
IFFS Surveillance Survey re COVID19 Pandemic Impact on Fertility Treatment in ART Practices in 93 Countries

IFFS Surveillance is a triennial compendium report of data collected by IFFS on global trends (local, regional differences) in reproductive health (ART) practice focused on standards policies and laws.

- ~¾ countries surveyed said that fertility Rx was NOT an essential medical service during the pandemic
- Over ½ modified their policies based on legal or professional society mandates
- >80% of country ART centers were closed or had limited access for special circumstances.
- ~20% of respondents knew reproductive HCP that were COVID19 positive and 5% knew deaths of reproductive HCPs in ART practices
Importance of Safety as We Move Forward in Reproductive Health Care

• Counseling patients about unknown risks of pregnancy
• Safety of patients (COVID19-related, stimulation protocols, handling and storage of gametes, embryos), pregnancies and children, families
• Safety of staff – clinical, embryology, research, trainees, procedures
• Safety of community
• PPE Supplies for COVID19 pandemic and practices
• Need for standard operating procedures and workflows
• Need for focus on well being of patients, staff, frontline workers, trainees

Thank you!