



Male-Factor Infertility: The Process to Seeking Treatment

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INTRODUCTION

The inability to have children effects 10-17% of the population.

Female-factor=1/3; Male-factor=1/3; Mixed or idiopathic=1/3

Male component of infertility understudied. Fertility research and services focused on females and on couples seeking treatment.

Missing populations who do not seek treatment.

The process of men seeking treatment for infertility is not found in current literature. Understanding this process of seeking treatment can lead to earlier referrals for evaluation and easier navigation through the healthcare process.

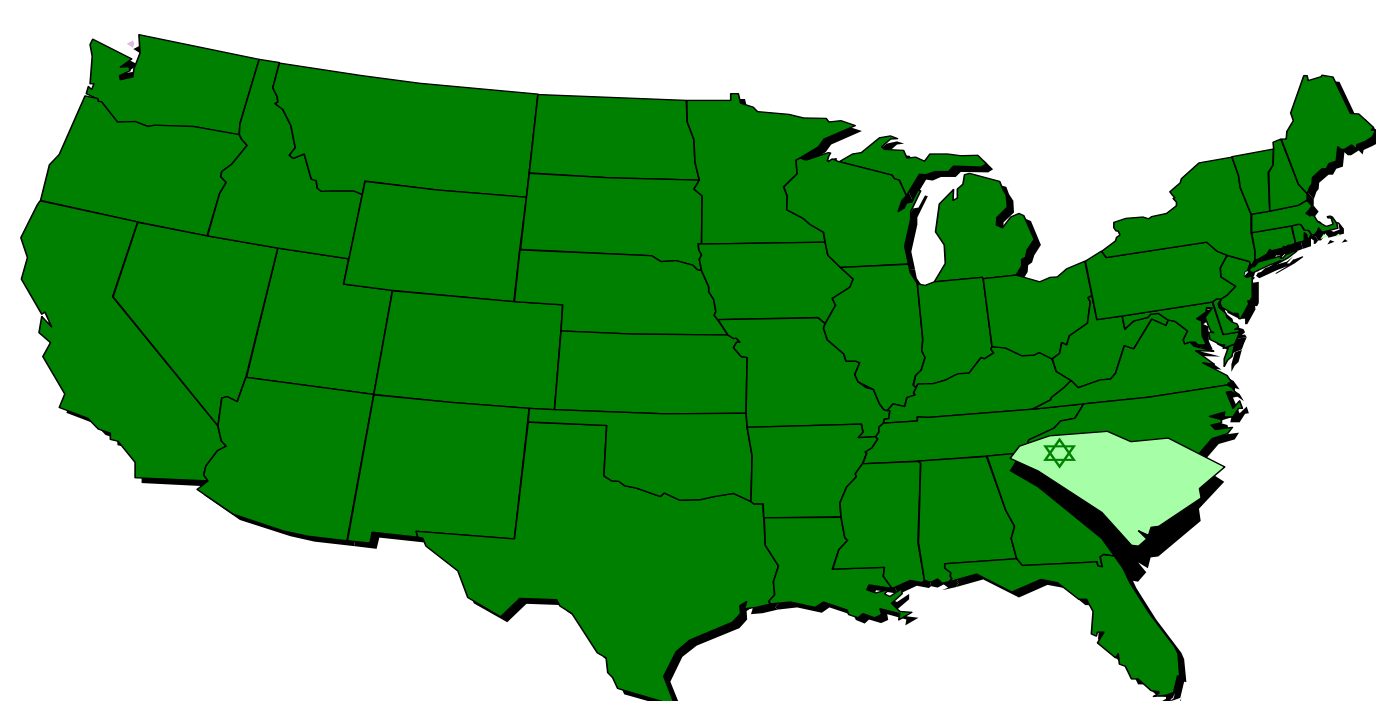
PURPOSE OF STUDY

To gain an understanding of the male perspective by collecting qualitative data about the process that males with infertility go through from deciding to conceive to seeking treatment.



SETTING

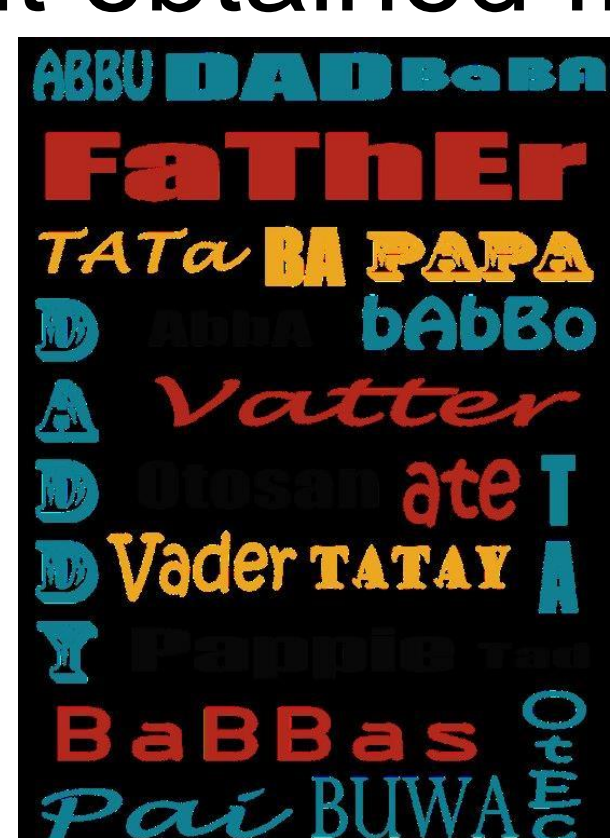
Fertility Center in the upstate area of South Carolina



PROTECTION OF HUMAN PARTICIPANTS

Study approved by Greenville Health System IRB and Texas Woman's University IRB

Informed Consent obtained from participants.



RESEARCH QUESTION

For males, what is the process that leads from hoping to conceive to treatment for infertility?

METHODOLOGY

Grounded Theory

• Glaser & Strauss, 1967

- Symbolic Interactionism
- People interact and behave based on their view of their environment



•Systematic Theory generation

- Coding categories
- Analysis and coding
- Middle-rance theory

DATA COLLECTION

Grounded theory guided the audio-recorded, face-to-face interviews lasting 20 minutes to an hour.

An interview guide was used for the qualitative study.

Questions included:

1. Tell me about your experiences from first hoping to conceive to seeking treatment.
2. Who influenced you to go?
3. What made the decision easier? More difficult?
4. Who was there for you?
5. What would you do differently?
6. What would you recommend to someone with concerns about conceiving?

Additional questions were added to explore more categories related to finance, taking a break, counseling, internet as a source of information and testing.

SAMPLE

Adult males seeking treatment for male-factor infertility

Exclusion criteria:

- Previous biological child
- History of cancer
- Gay men

10 Participants

- Mean Age 32.7 years old
- Race

- Caucasian (70%)
- African American (20%)
- Asian (10%)

- Length of Infertility- Mean 2 years 10 months

- Education

- Associates (20%)
- Bachelors (40%)
- Masters (30%)
- Doctoral (10%)



DATA ANALYSIS

Constant Comparison Analysis

- Open Coding
- Axial coding
- Selective coding

Analysis began at the end of the first interview and categories were identified. Ongoing analysis took place after each interview and previous transcripts were reviewed to ensure all items that fit a category were coded. Additionally, the findings and process were sent to one participant. He was able to verify the process to show the true experiences of the males who seek treatment for their infertility.

FINDINGS

•***Just having fun***

•***Realization that something could be wrong***

•***Influenced to go***

•***Testing for the female***

•***Testing for the male***

•***Finding out***

•***Who was there for you?***

•***Seeking Information***

•***Treatment***

•***What's the next step?***

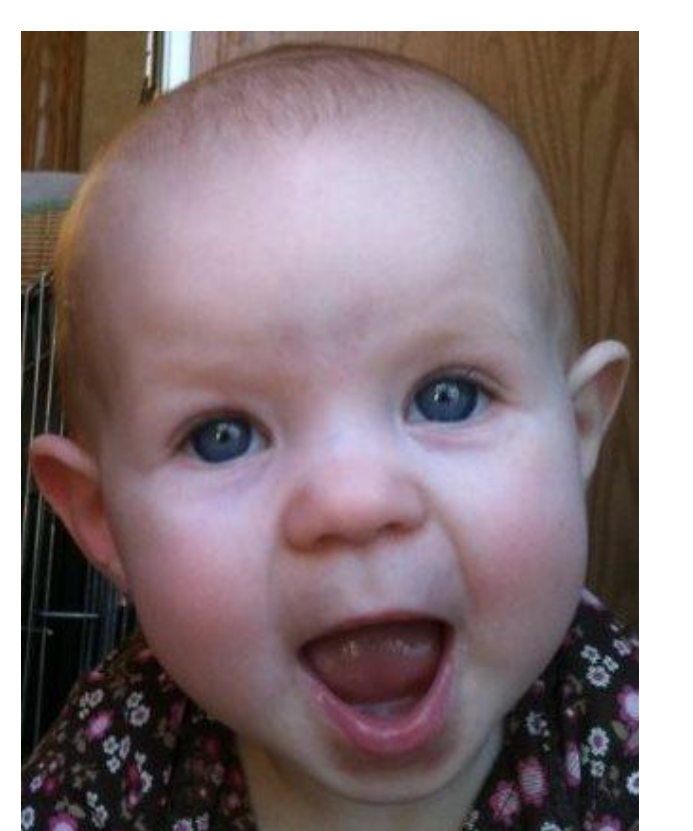
•***Taking a break***

•***Financial impacts***

•***Cultural impacts***

•***Time***

•***Hindsight***



CONCLUSIONS

The interviews provided information beyond just seeking treatment.

By understanding the process to Seeking Treatment for Male-Factor Infertility, nurses will be able to make a positive impact to decrease the time it takes for men to seek treatment or even assist with navigation of the process by providing valuable information about finances, the big picture and next steps in the plan, resources for information gathering that is specific to each man's circumstances.