

Title:

Male-Factor Infertility: The Process to Seeking Treatment

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Session Title:

Research Poster Session 1

Slot (superslotted):

RSC PST 1: Friday, 28 July 2017: 10:00 AM-10:45 AM

Slot (superslotted):

RSC PST 1: Friday, 28 July 2017: 12:00 PM-1:30 PM

Keywords:

Grounded Theory, Male-Factor Infertility and Qualitative Research

References:

American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM). (2015c). Diagnostic evaluation of the infertile male: a committee opinion. *Fertility and Sterility*, 103(3), p. e18-e25.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2016b, April 21). *Infertility FAQs*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/Infertility/>.

Culley, L., Hudson, N., & Lohan, M. (2013). Where are all the men? The marginalization of men in social scientific research on infertility. *Reproductive BioMedicine Online*, 27(3), 225-235.

World Health Organization (WHO). (2016). *Infertility*. Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/topics/infertility/en/>.

Abstract Summary:

Findings are presented from a qualitative study using grounded theory about the process that males with infertility go through from deciding to conceive to seeking treatment for male-factor infertility.

Learning Activity:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE
The learner will be able to identify three (3) steps in the process that males go through from deciding to conceive to seeking treatment for male-factor infertility.	Categories identified that are part of the process to seeking treatment: (1) Just Having Fun, (2) Realization that Something Could be Wrong, (3) Influenced to Go, (4) Testing for the Female, (5) Testing for the Male, (6) Finding Out, Who was there for you?, (7)

	Seeking Information, (8) What's the Next Step, and (9) Taking a Break
The learner will be able to identify one (1) overarching category over the entire process of deciding to conceive to seeking treatment.	Overarching categories throughout the process are Financial Impacts and Cultural Impacts and Time.
The learner will be able to identify two (2) area of nursing that could benefit from understanding the process to seeking treatment for male-factor infertility.	Understanding male-factor infertility can be beneficial to a variety of areas in nursing, including: urology, gynecology, health promotion, community health, mental health, occupational health among many others.

Abstract Text:

Purpose:

The purpose of this study was to gain an understanding of the process that adult males go through from deciding to conceive to seeking treatment for male-factor infertility.

Methods: Approval to conduct the research was obtained from the Institutional Review Board of Texas Woman's University and the Greenville Health System University Medical Center Office of Research Compliance and Administration Institutional Review Board. Appropriate measures were taken to protect human participants. Participants signed a written consent form. A qualitative design utilizing grounded theory was used. Participants were identified and recruited from the fertility center. Participants were in the process of seeking treatment with assisted reproductive technology (ART). A physician contacted some men and invited them to participate in the study and others volunteered after their wives saw a recruitment flyer. Semi-structured, audio-taped interviews were conducted with 10 participants in a private setting.

Results:

The participants ranged in age from 27 to 39 years old, with a mean age of 32.7 years old. Their partners' reported ages ranged from 26 to 38 years old, with a mean age of 32.4 years old at the time of the interview. The participants reported their race as: Caucasian, 70% ($n=7$); African American, 20% ($n=2$); and Asian, 10% ($n=1$). Interview transcripts were analyzed using Constant Comparative Analysis techniques.

Findings include categories such as *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*, *What's the Next Step*, *Taking a Break*, *Financial Impacts*, *Cultural Impacts*, and *Hindsight*. The process of male-factor infertility: seeking treatment follows a varying timeline. For some participants the timeline was short and for others the timeline was stretched out. A greater understanding of the process and the factors which speed up or slow down the time to the next step is important for helping men with male-factor infertility and their partners navigate through the jungle of infertility and seeking treatment. Time, financial/cost, and culture all have an input into the process from beginning to end. Decision-making for each step is impacted by these categories.

Conclusion: 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.

