Title: Global Utilization of Fertility Services in Developed Nations

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Session Title: Research Poster Session 1
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Keywords: Artificial Reproductive Technology, Infertility and Reproductive Health

References:


Abstract Summary:
9.5 percent of the global population suffers from infertility and the utilization rates of Assistive Reproductive Technology (ART) vary between countries. This poster examines factors that affect eligibility for ART worldwide such as marital status, age and sexual orientation and how they lead patients to seek cross border medical care.

Learning Activity:

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<th>LEARNING OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE</th>
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<td>Define cross border reproductive care</td>
<td>Cross border reproductive care will be defined as patients seeking reproductive treatment outside of their own country due to strict regulations or lack of access to care. We will look at examples of cross border reproductive...</td>
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Identify countries with liberal and restrictive regulations regarding artificial reproductive technology (ART)

18 countries will be compared in written and graph form. Liberal regulations in ART are found in countries that do not impose a marriage requirement, age requirements or deny same sex couples for treatment. Strict regulating countries impose some or all of these. Examples of specific countries with liberal and strict regulations will be exemplified.

Examine the factors that relate to regulations of ART

Marriage, age of woman, age of man, number of oocytes allowed and sexual orientation are all factors that relate to regulations of ART and therefore contribute to rates of cross border care. We will examine these factors and analyze how it impacts the world and reproductive health.

Abstract Text:

**Purpose:** To identify factors that lead to discrepancies of utilization of artificial reproductive technology (ART) worldwide and understand the impacts liberal and strict country regulations have on cross border care and overall reproductive health and infertility rates.

**Methods:** A literature search for global infertility, assistive reproductive technology and cross border care was completed. Data from the search was gathered and analyzed. Visual graphs for 18 different countries were created to help visualize the differences in number of ART cycles, pregnancy rates and ART utilization based on population. Laws and regulations of each country were researched. Regulations in each country were compared with rates of ART utilization, and ingoing and outgoing cross border care.

**Results:** Regulations and laws for ART varied worldwide such as regulations dependent on marital status, age of woman, age of man, and sexual orientation. Countries with liberal regulations in which they do not impose as many strict regulations such as age limits typically have higher incoming cross border care and higher utilization of ART. Countries with strict regulations that impose requirements such as heterosexual marriage typically have higher outgoing cross border care and lower ART utilization. However, some countries such as the United Kingdom have liberal regulations but still have high outgoing cross border care rates likely due to their long wait lists and lack of appropriate access to care. Other countries such have Ireland do not have public access to ART and therefore have no regulations or public financing in place and very low utilization of ART.

**Conclusion:** The growing phenomenon of cross border reproductive care highlights the problem with infertility throughout the world. Restrictive laws, lack of public financing and wait lists all contribute to patients seeking legal, more affordable and better medical care in other countries. The utilization of ART has not met the growth in technology for infertility treatment and poses a threat to the population of infertile persons. The data should continue to be examined to fully determine the factors contributing to the increase in this form of medical tourism to further help the utilization of ART.