

Twins' Ovarian Transplants Are Proving Successful

BY KATE JOHNSON
Montral Bureau

PRAGUE — Ovarian transplantation in five sets of monozygotic twins who were discordant for ovarian failure has not only resulted in normal menstruation and ovulation in all recipients, but also one healthy birth and three more ongoing pregnancies, Dr. Sherman Silber reported at the annual meeting of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology.

"What we once thought would be a rare thing is now a series, with great implications beyond these special cases," said Dr. Silber from the Infertility Center of St. Louis.

Last year at the same meeting, Dr. Silber reported his first of such transplants

(*N. Engl. J. Med.* 2005;353:58-63) from a fertile twin to her sister.

The donor, who had three naturally conceived children, had one ovary laparoscopically removed. One-third of the tissue was frozen for the donor to use in the future, and the other two-thirds were transplanted into the recipient, who had experienced premature ovarian failure at age 14.

After the procedure, the recipient conceived in her second menstrual cycle and gave birth to a healthy girl. She has since

conceived again and the delivery of her second child is expected soon.

Since Dr. Silber's initial report of this procedure, he has performed it successfully in four other monozygotic twin pairs, two of whom have conceived.

The third recipient is trying to conceive and the fourth is waiting to finish her medical training before trying to get pregnant. "This is not an arduous or difficult procedure for either patient," noted Dr. Silber in an interview, both the donor and re-

recipient can return home the next day.

"It is much like a laparoscopy with lysis of adhesions." The advantage of the procedure over egg donation is that it allows long-term fertility and natural conception, he added.

He reported that the postoperative pattern for all recipients is very similar, with the resumption of menstruation occurring roughly 2.5 months post procedure and ovulatory cycles generally resuming another 2 months after that. ■

Race, Ethnicity Influence PCOS Cardio Risk

RANCHO MIRAGE, CALIF. — Cardiovascular risk factors varied considerably by race and ethnicity in women with polycystic ovary syndrome in a large Kaiser Permanente study presented by Dr. Seth L. Feigenbaum, a reproductive endocrinologist in the San Francisco office of the Permanente Medical Group.

Dr. Feigenbaum and associates at the 3.3-million-member Kaiser Permanente Health Plan of Northern California compared 6,671 women ages 16-44 who were diagnosed with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) with 26,662 age-matched women in terms of three cardiovascular risk factors: obesity, diabetes, and hypertension.

The sample represents 42% of insured individuals in northern California and is highly representative of the racial and ethnic diversity of the 14 counties of the San Francisco Bay vicinity, Dr. Feigenbaum said at the annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Reproductive Society.

Two-thirds of women with a diagnosis of PCOS were obese—having a body mass index of 30 kg/m² or greater—compared with one-third of the age-matched controls.

Compared with white women, black and Hispanic women with PCOS were significantly more likely, and Asian women were significantly less likely, to be obese.

Blacks were far more likely than Asians or Hispanics, and somewhat more likely than whites, to be hypertensive. Diabetes was most prevalent in Asians and Hispanics, followed by whites, then blacks.

In a multivariate regression analysis that adjusted for variables such as BMI, distinct racial/ethnic patterns emerged:

- ▶ Asians had a twofold increased risk of diabetes, compared with whites
- ▶ Blacks, by an odds ratio of 1.32, were considerably more likely than whites to have hypertension
- ▶ Hispanics had higher rates of diabetes, but lower rates of hypertension than whites, with odds ratios of 1.33 and 0.68, respectively.

—Betsy Bates

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*Simopoulos, AP, Workshop on the essentiality of and recommended dietary intakes of omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids. *Ann Nutr Metab*, 1999, 43 (2):127-30. ©2006 Martek Biosciences Corporation.