Egg donation resort: the Spanish position?

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Outline of the presentation

- Cross border reproductive care in Europe
- Spain as an egg donation destination:
  - quality of care
  - legal situation
  - organ donation experience
  - profile of recipients and donors
- Experience of a large Spanish fertility clinic
Fertility treatments around the globe

±1.5 million IVF treatments/year worldwide

Europe currently carries out \( \frac{1}{3} \) of them

Spain in the top 3: 11% of Europe’s (55,000 IVF trts/year)

ESHRE 2012
Do patients travel?

About 25,000 women/year perform a fertility treatment outside their own country.

Shenfield et al., Human Reprod 2010
Why do patients travel?

### Table IV General reasons for travelling (%) according to the country of patients’ residence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Legal reason</th>
<th>Access difficulty</th>
<th>Better quality</th>
<th>Previous failure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>70.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>80.2</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>43.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>64.5</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>18.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>71.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>37.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>56.6</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total %</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>43.2</td>
<td>29.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Shenfield et al., Human Reprod 2010*
Oocyte donation in Europe: Legal aspects?

Differences between countries

- Non-regulated Egg donation
- Anonymous Egg donation
- Non-anonymous Egg donation
- Forbidden Egg donation
What about Spain and CBRC?

40% Cross-Border Reproductive Care in Europe is performed in Spain (± 10,000-15,000 treatments/year)

60% using donated sperm or oocytes
Egg donation in Spain

50% of egg donation treatments reported in Europe are performed in Spain on local and overseas patients

Evolution of oocyte donation cycles in Spain

OD cycles in Cataluña

- 2001: 613
- 2002: 701
- 2003: 1340
- 2004: 2012
- 2005: 3026
- 2006: 3989
- 2007: 5075
- 2008: 6285
- 2009: 7602
- 2010: 8506
- 2011: 10146

SOURCE: FIVCAT
Spanish Clinics have an excellent reputation:

- For the **quality of their assistance**
- For their **success rates** - above the European average

*Kupka et al. Hum. Reprod., 2014*
Assisted Reproduction Techniques (ART) and access to egg donation in Spain is protected by a very clear and rigorous law.
Legal situation in Spain

- Egg donation: voluntary, **anonymous** and altruistic
- ART accessible to any woman, regardless of her marital status or sexual choice
- Double donation (sperm + egg donation allowed)
Legal situation in Spain

Patients

- Minimum age: 18
- Maximum age: “adequate age” - EUGIN ≤ 50 years
- Without medical contra indications for pregnancy
Legal situation in Spain

Donors
- Age: 18 et 35 years
- Good physical and mental health
- Without infectious or hereditary/congenital diseases
- Maximum 6 children
Recommendations bioethical committee

Information, inclusion criteria, practical aspects, informed consents, compensation, etc.

Maximum 6 stimulations
Spain, world leader in organ donation for last 20 consecutive years
Families accepting organ donation at the moment of death:

France: 70%

Spain: 85%

Now: anonymous kidney donation from a living donor allowed
Why Spain?

**NEWS**

Spain is to lead on EU policy on organ donation and transplantation

*BMJ 2011; 343 doi: 10.1136/bmj.d4413 (Published 13 July 2011)*

*Site this as: BMJ 2011;343:d4413*
Why Barcelona?

- First Spanish ART baby was born in Barcelona
- Strict regulatory body (FIVCAT Catalan Register for Assisted Reproduction)
- Cosmopolitan: easy to find suitable donors with varied characteristics
What about the donors in Spain and Europe?

Socio-demographic and fertility-related characteristics and motivations of oocyte donors in eleven European countries

G. Pennings¹,* , J. de Mouzon², F. Shenfield³, A.P. Ferraretti⁴, T. Mardesic⁵, A. Ruiz⁶, and V. Goossens⁷

Human Reprod, mars 2014

1423 questionnaires in 11 European countries (60 centres)
late 2011 – mid 2012
### Country of origin and of residence?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Not resident in the country %</th>
<th>Not born in the country %</th>
<th>Age (years) M ± SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>30.2 ± 3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>26.9 ± 4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>28.4 ± 4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>31.0 ± 4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>27.9 ± 4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>29.5 ± 3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>26.6 ± 4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>27.1 ± 3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>25.6 ± 3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>30.1 ± 3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>26.6 ± 2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>27.4 ± 4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*P < 0.001*
### Motives for donation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motives for donation</th>
<th>Altruism</th>
<th>Own treatment</th>
<th>Financial</th>
<th>Altruism + own treatment</th>
<th>Altruism + financial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>86.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>45.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>88.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>27.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>58.9</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>14.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>76.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>19.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>52.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>29.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>56.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>58.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>47.8</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>33.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\( P < 0.001 \)

*Pennings et al., HR 2014*
Patient and donor characteristics of a large Spanish centre?
Oocyte donation activity at Eugin

2014: > 11,000 treatments

6,500 IVF

> 3,500 oocyte donation cycles

Oocyte donation: ± 10% of the oocyte donation cycles in Europe are performed at clinical Eugin (Probably world leading clinic)
Who are Eugin’s patients?

- 70% foreign patients

- Nationalities of foreign patients:
  - 78 different countries
  - 40% French
  - main others: Italy, Swiss, MENA region, UK, German

- Profile of French oocyte recipient:
  - mean age: 41
  - 88% heterosexual couples
  - 11% singles
  - 1% homosexual couples
Who are Eugin’s donors?

- Medium age: 26.8 years
- 42%: with partner
- 45.5%: with own children
- 60%: working
- 24%: unemployed
- 10%: student
- 4%: housewife
- 3%: others
Who are Eugin’s donors?

- 71.5%: at least secondary school
- 100% live in Barcelona
- 84% Spanish
- Average number of cycles per donor in our clinic: 2.6
How donors know us?

- Word of mouth: 40%
- Internet: 37%
- Other: 23%
Motivation of our donors?

30% altruism

50% altruism + financial

20% financial
Conclusions

- Lots of patients cross their border in order to get a fertility treatment.

- Reasons for travelling are: legal reasons, access difficulty, better quality, previous failures.

- Spain is European “top” country for gamete donation:
  - high quality of care
  - pregnancy rates above European average
  - very clear and rigorous law
  - altruistic population with large history of organ transplantation.

- Spanish donors are typical: highly educated, 27 years, living close by, working, altruistic.