

RESOLUTION

Subject: Frozen Embryos Should Not be Considered Children in Order to Preserve Patient Access to Infertility Treatment

Submitted by: Lexington Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, infertility can affect individuals with medical problems like previous cancer treatment, obesity, erectile dysfunction, age (over 40 for men, 35 for women), diabetes and other medical issues¹; and

WHEREAS, infertility affects 10-15% of couples with IVF being a common procedure to allow these couples to conceive a child²; and

WHEREAS, in vitro fertilization (IVF) is a series of procedures, some of which are invasive with patient risk, that ultimately lead to an egg being combined with sperm outside of the body in a laboratory. The fertilized egg (zygote) undergoes embryo culture and becomes an embryo that can be placed in a woman's uterus or frozen³; and

WHEREAS, during IVF procedures, multiple embryos are prepared at a time to decrease patient risk with approximately 40% of IVF procedures performed with the intent to freeze the embryo and use it later⁴; and

WHEREAS, miscarriage is a naturally occurring event and, therefore, embryonic loss is a part of nature; and

WHEREAS, increasing liability and cost for both patients and physicians (i.e. embryo storage) by considering embryos children will lead to fewer infertility options for Kentuckians; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the KMA, in keeping with the AMA (D-5.999), supports access to infertility treatment; and, therefore, opposes embryos being considered children.

References

1. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/13/fact-sheet-in-vitro-fertilization-ivf-use-across-united-states.html> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Fact Sheet: In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) use across the United States
2. Choe J, Shanks AL. In Vitro Fertilization. [Updated 2023 Sep 4]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2024 Jan-. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK562266/>
3. <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007279.htm> MedlinePlus brings together authoritative health information from the National Library of Medicine (NLM), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and other government agencies and health-related organizations.
4. <https://www.cdc.gov/art/reports/2020/summary.html> 2020 National ART (artificial reproductive technology) Summary; Last Reviewed: February 21, 2023.