

The Effect of Female Age on Fertility Potential

Age is the number one factor influencing a woman's fertility potential. Pregnancy rates begin to decline as a woman enters her 30s, with an accelerated decline after age 35. Simultaneously, as a woman ages, the proportion of chromosomally abnormal embryos and miscarriages increases.

MORE THAN
80%
OF INFERTILITY PATIENTS SAY
THEY WISH THEY HAD
UNDERSTOOD THE LINK
BETWEEN FERTILITY
AND AGE SOONER

FOR YOUR PATIENTS ACTIVELY PURSUING A PREGNANCY

WHEN TO REFER ▶ NO PREGNANCY AFTER 1 YEAR (<AGE 35), 6 MONTHS (AGE 35-40), 3 MONTHS (>AGE 40)

Egg quality and egg supply are the two main factors in age-related female fertility potential. Basic fertility work-up bloodwork, including follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), anti-Müllerian hormone (AMH), and estradiol (E2) levels as well as an ultrasound to determine antral follicle count (AFC), are key inputs in determining egg quality and supply. These levels, in addition to assessing whether Fallopian tubes are open and determining semen quantity and quality, will help point to the most effective treatment option.

It is important to keep in mind how age affects typical pregnancy success rates as well as the success rates of infertility treatment options.

Maternal Age	<35	35-40	>40
When to Refer	No pregnancy after 1 year	No pregnancy after 6 months	No pregnancy after 3 months
Typical chance of pregnancy per month (without medical assistance)	20%	10%	<5%
Chance of egg chromosomal abnormalities ¹	<35%	35-58%	>58%
Intrauterine insemination (IUI) pregnancy rate per cycle at SGF²	17-20%	15-17%	up to 14%
In vitro fertilization (IVF) clinical pregnancy rate per embryo transfer at SGF³	57%	45%	20%
IVF with donor egg clinical pregnancy rate per embryo transfer at SGF⁴	60%	60%	60%

REFER IMMEDIATELY IF...

- Multiple miscarriages
- Anovulation or ovulatory disorder
- Endometriosis
- Severe male factor infertility
- Bilateral tubal occlusion
- Prior male and female sterilization

FOR YOUR PATIENTS CONSIDERING A FUTURE PREGNANCY

WHEN TO REFER FOR EGG FREEZING ▶ PATIENTS 30+ OR ANY PATIENT EXPERIENCING OR SUSPECTING IMPAIRED FERTILITY

Egg Freezing Women ages 30 to 40 not considering pregnancy in the near-term, facing cancer treatment, or presenting with endometriosis or premature ovarian failure may be ideal candidates for egg freezing. A recent Shady Grove Fertility study that analyzed success rates associated with egg freezing concluded that women under age 38 who freeze the recommended number of eggs have a 70 to 80% chance of taking home a baby.

¹ Franasiak J, Forman E, et al. Aneuploidy Versus Age. Fertility and Sterility. 2014, 101: 656-663.

² Pregnancy rate per cycle following ovulation induction (OI) or superovulation with a minimum of 9 million total motile sperm (2014-2015).

³ Preliminary Shady Grove Fertility 2017 IVF and FET Statistics.

⁴ Shady Grove Fertility 2016 Donor Egg Success Rates.

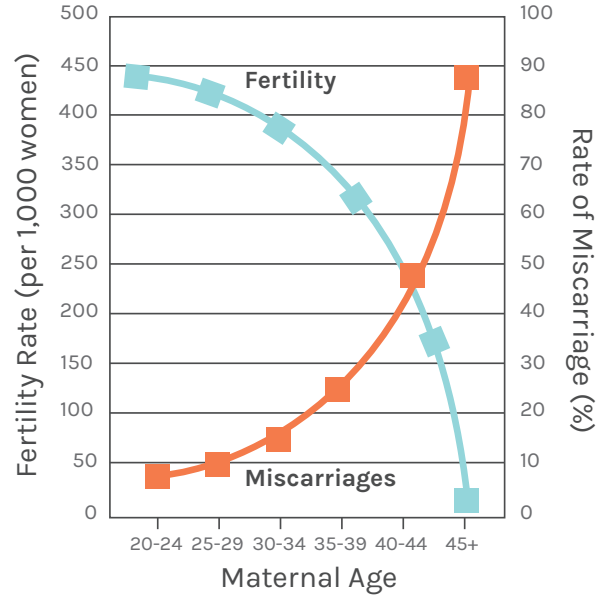
Age is the #1 Indicator of Female Fertility

More than 80% of infertility patients say they wish they had understood the link between age and fertility sooner.

Whether or not your patient is actively pursuing a pregnancy, understanding how age impacts her ability to conceive is vital information in planning a family.

A recent national survey conducted by RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association and EMD Serono found that more than 80% of over 750 respondents said they wished they had understood the link between age and fertility sooner.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT FEMALE AGE & FERTILITY POTENTIAL ►](#)



Speroff L, Fritz M. Female Infertility. In: *Clinical Gynecologic Endocrinology and Infertility*. 8th ed. Phil: Lippincott; 2010:1141

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