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Measurement of success in ART: Single, term and normal birth weight infants born

Today, *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) has become more successful than ever, in regards to implantation rate and live birth rate, since its introduction in 1978. A part of this is due to improvements in culture systems and culture media, but also due to improved training and proficiency of embryologists. During the pioneering years of IVF in humans, overall pregnancy rates per treatment cycle were low. Therefore, to increase the success rate of an IVF cycle, it has become an accepted practice to transfer two or even more embryos per patient, regardless of age or embryo quality, to the uterus. As a result, high-order multiples including twin pregnancies were on the rise. Multiple pregnancies are associated with the increased risk of certain congenital abnormalities and other potential complications, which are attributed to an increase in maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity, family stress, and increased costs for all parties involved. Patient education is vital for encouraging patients to take an eSET as the only truly effective means to avoid multiple gestations. Support in their decision-making can include being made aware of a successful cryopreservation program of supernumerary embryos, which will help to maintain

high pregnancy rates while improving the health of the resulting live births when performing eSET in good prognosis patients. In this presentation, the author will discuss ways to implement elective single embryo transfer in a clinical setting and demonstrate our more recent data on this matter.

Speaker Biography

Juergen Liebermann is Certified as a High-complexity Clinical Laboratory Director through the American Board of Bioanalysis. He has been working in the field of IVF since 1995. Since 2004 he is the Laboratory Director for Fertility Centers of Illinois (FCI) Chicago/River North Embryology, Andrology and the Endocrinology Lab. He received his Doctoral degree from the Technical University Munich in Bavaria/Germany in 1995 and his Post-doctoral thesis in 2004 qualified him as a University Lecturer in Experimental Reproductive Medicine at the Bavarian University of Wuerzburg, Germany. He has authored numerous papers and contributed more than 15 book chapters in the area of reproductive science. In 2007, he co-authored a book with Michael Tucker titled *Vitrification in Human Assisted Reproduction*. He is a Member of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, Society for the Study of Reproduction, and the American Board of Bioanalysis. He serves also as an Ad Hoc for *Fertility and Sterility*, *Human Reproduction*, *Reproductive Biomedicine Online*, *Reproduction*, *European Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics and Reproductive Biology*, and *Cryobiology*.

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