

Contact: KMR Communications, Inc.
P: 212.213.6444
F: 212.213.4699
info@kmrcommunications.com



New Study Links Infertility to DNA Damage

New York, NY October 4, 2002 - Infertility is a nationwide problem affecting more than 8 million Americans, and half of the time a couple can't conceive, the man is responsible for the infertility. Once it is determined a man has a low sperm count, most doctors resort to In Vitro Fertilization. **New studies show, that the DNA of the sperm in infertile men is often damaged, and using it for In Vitro Fertilization can be dangerous to the fetus.**

A team of researchers from Cleveland, OH took sperm from 92 men undergoing fertility treatments and compared it with the sperm of fertile men. Twenty five percent of the infertile men had normal-looking sperm. The rest of the men had either abnormal-looking sperm or sperm that couldn't swim properly. As researchers expected, men with abnormal-looking sperm had a higher rate of DNA damage. But what they didn't expect was half of the normal-looking sperm ALSO had DNA damage.

"The amount of DNA damage determines not only if the couple would be able to conceive but also whether a live birth can ensue," according to **Dr. Philip Werthman**, one of the nation's experts in male infertility. "And if a child is born, there is higher probability birth defects or serious health conditions will result due to the damaged DNA."

There is a disturbing trend of infertile men not being properly screened and tested at infertility clinics. "Many couples are told that IVF is the only option to treat male factor infertility, which is not true," says Dr. Werthman. "If the DNA is damaged, then there are ways of correcting the problem allowing a couple to conceive."

The testing for infertility in men should never stop with a mere sperm count. With Infertility Awareness Week approaching from September 21-29, this is a time to address the importance of appropriately screening and testing infertile men.

Dr. Werthman is a board certified urologist, fellowship-trained andrologist and Director of the Center for Male Reproductive Medicine in Century City, Los Angeles. He also serves as Chief of Urology at Century City Hospital and Assistant Clinical Professor of Urology at The University of Southern California School of Medicine. As a male infertility specialist, Dr. Werthman has a keen understanding and perspective of the unique issues that confront men who are faced with this unfamiliar and unsettling situation.

Dr. Werthman's clinical interests include the treatment of male infertility, erectile dysfunction, renal transplantation and prostate diseases. He has conducted basic science and clinical research in the areas of gene therapy for male infertility and erectile dysfunction. He is also actively involved in designing and refining microsurgical instrumentation used in male infertility treatments.

Dr. Werthman is the editor of a textbook on male infertility for the series "Infertility and Reproductive Medicine Clinics of North America" Published by WB Saunders, and is co-author of "The Sperm Goes in the Egg; A Guy's Guide for Surviving Couples Infertility." He serves as the male infertility expert on multiple Websites, regularly advising thousands of couples. In addition, he is often called upon by the national media to comment on men's health issues, and lectures frequently on infertility to both doctor and patient audiences around the country. Dr. Werthman is a member of the American Urologic Association, Western Section

of the AUA, American Society of Reproductive Medicine, American Society of Andrology, Society for the Study of Male Reproduction, the Pacific Coast Fertility Society, and the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology.

###

For additional information, to schedule an interview or to request products, please contact KMR Communications, Inc. at 212.213.6444, or info@kmrcommunications.com. KMR Communications, Inc. is a vital communications resource, fulfilling the interview of the news media with experts from the medical, fitness and beauty industry.