
Information about treatment using donated sperm

Medisch Centrum Kinderwens

Who is eligible for treatments using donated sperm?

Treatments using donated sperm are intended for women with a desire to have children who do not have a male partner, or whose male partner's sperm is not of sufficient quality.

Which donor?

The MCK Fertility Center works with three different types of donors. You can use sperm donated by a personal donor (such as a non-related member of your family or a friend). In addition to this, you can select a donor from one of the two donor banks our Fertility Center works with: ESB and CRYOS, located in Denmark. Finally, there is the option to use a donor from our own sperm bank. Important factors such as costs, waiting times and traceability of the donor may all play a role in coming to a decision on this matter. Below, you can find more information on every available option. And of course you can always talk things through with your treating nurse or physician as well as with our fertility counselor.

Screening the donors

There are a number of conditions that potential donors have to meet in order to donate. These conditions are outlined in the European and Dutch guidelines and have to be adhered to by our own facility's donors as well as by the commercial foreign sperm bank donors.

Donors are no younger than 18 years old and no older than 45. This maximum age for donors was changed in 2018. Before then, the maximum allowed age for a donor (at the time of registering) was 49. In general, a donor will be older than this range when his sperm is used for a first (and perhaps a second) pregnancy. A donor must be physically and mentally healthy. His family must not have a history of severe hereditary disorders (up to and including third-degree relatives). Donors from our own sperm bank agree to the registration of their personal information into the database of the Stichting Donorgegevens Kunstmatige Bevruchting (Association for the Registration of Donors' Personal Information – will be referred to as the SDKB).

Active donors are regularly screened for the following STDs: Hepatitis B and C, HIV, Lues, HTLV I and II, chlamydia and gonorrhea, as decreed by Dutch legislation.

Donor's anonymity

Since 2004, anonymous sperm donation has been outlawed in the Netherlands, as established in a law known as the 'Wet Donorgegevens Kunstmatige Bevruchting' (law on Donors' Personal Details for Artificial Insemination). All sperm banks are required to register all data related to successful treatments in which a child is conceived using donated sperm to a database in the government's VWS department. The Stichting Donorgegevens Kunstmatige Bevruchting (the Donors' Personal Details Registration Association – will be referred to as SDKB) oversees this data. It will be kept on record for 80 years. By law, the donor has the right to block the dissemination of personally identifiable information – if *overriding interests of the donor mean that there should be no distribution*. Among other reasons, this could be the case if the donor has passed away in the meantime.

Upon request, the SDKB will provide physical and social attributes of the donor (such as hair color, eye color, occupation and education) to the parents after the child has been born. After the child's twelfth birthday, this information can be given to the child as well, with permission from their parents. After the child's sixteenth birthday, they can request personally identifiable information of the donor without parental consent. The 'Wet Donorgegevens Kunstmatige Bevruchting' (law on Donors' Personal Details for Artificial Insemination) states that it is possible for the donor to block the dissemination of personally identifiable information – *if overriding interests of the donor mean that there should be no distribution*. Among other reasons, this could be the case if the donor has passed away in the meantime.

If a child wishes to meet their donor, that donor will be informed of the child's desire to meet him. The meeting will be conducted by the FOM and will not happen until after you've talked to someone about what exactly will happen. The donor has no rights or (financial) duties regarding the child, and the child or parents cannot demand rights in return.

More information regarding current legislation can be found at the SDKB's website: www.donorgegevens.nl

Expenses

None of the expenses you make regarding sperm donation are covered by insurance. Examinations relating to an unfulfilled desire to have children and treatments, however, are covered by a basic insurance package.

Using a personal donor's sperm

If you want to use a personal donor, we refer you and your donor to the information brochures "Information for women with a personal sperm donor" and "Sperm storage for known donors".

Our Fertility Center only uses previously frozen donated sperm. Using 'fresh' donated sperm is not allowed due to risk of infection.

The donor will schedule an appointment for an intake consultation with one of our physicians and our fertility counselor. After these consultations, some of his blood will be drawn for testing purposes, and if desired, a first sperm sample will be frozen.

We will not start using the donated sperm until all these results are known and positive. This usually takes about six months, but with a fast-tracked test it'll be roughly three weeks after the final donation/blood test.

Which treatment we use will depend on the quality of the stored sperm. Although it will usually be possible to do an IUI (insemination) treatment, sometimes the only viable option is ICSI (a kind of test-tube fertilization). More information regarding these treatments can be found in their respective information brochures.

Due to privacy reasons, all personal data and test results will only be discussed with the donor himself. However, you will be informed by your treating nurse or physician after each donation of how many straws were obtained and which treatments are possible with them. The final blood test will be scheduled after a sufficient number of straws have been obtained.

The costs associated with the medical examination of a donor and the cryogenic storage of the sperm can be found on our price list, available on our website. The bill will be sent to the recipient of the sperm. If the sperm will need to be stored longer than a year, the recipient will be charged for this on a yearly basis.

We advise recording your agreements with your donor in a judicial contract. In order to do this, you may want to contact a notary or lawyer. Our Fertility Center can provide names and/or addresses of professionals in the field with a specialty in this.

Using sperm from ESB/CRYOS

If you wish to use a donor from one of the aforementioned commercial sperm banks, we refer you to the relevant information brochures.

You'll select the donor yourself, by browsing your sperm bank of choice's website. In the Netherlands, donor treatments are only allowed if sperm from a known donor is used. Therefore, you are not allowed to select an anonymous donor.

Prior to your treatment, several examinations will be conducted. You can order donated sperm only after all the results of these examinations are clear and have been discussed by you and your treating nurse or physician. One treatment will usually require a single straw of donated sperm. Although it will usually be possible to do an IUI (insemination) treatment, sometimes the only viable option is ICSI (a kind of test-tube fertilization). More information regarding these treatments can be found in their respective information brochures.

After you have ordered straws, they will be shipped to our Fertility Center. Upon arrival, they will need to be processed by our laboratorial analysts. This is why the sperm has to arrive at our clinic at least two weeks before any treatment is scheduled to start.

Other than shipping and processing time, there is no waitlist for treatments using donors from these sperm banks.

Using sperm from an MCK Fertility Center donor

If you wish to use sperm donated directly to the MCK Fertility Center's own sperm bank, the donor will be selected for you by one of our analysts. This selection process takes into account factors such as the ethnic background, skin color, hair color, eye color, build and height of you, your partner and the donor. Your treating nurse or physician will go through these physical characteristics of the suggested donor with you. You can then decide whether you agree to this suggestion, or not.

MCK Fertility Center donors are men who live in the Netherlands (at the time of their donation). These men may not be of Dutch origins, and there is no guarantee that they will spend the rest of their lives in the Netherlands.

Unfortunately, there is a (long) waiting time to use sperm donated to us directly. During the intake consultation, your treating nurse or physician will add you to our waitlist if you so desire. This will provide a rough estimation of when it'll be your turn. This estimation may change based on unforeseen circumstances.

In order to limit the waitlist, no more than a maximum of twelve straws (the equivalent of twelve tries) are given out for each successful pregnancy. In addition to this, there used to be a maximum of two children per family. This was changed in 2018 and no longer applies. A donor will be used to help no more than twelve families.

Although it will usually be possible to do an IUI (insemination) treatment in a natural menstrual cycle, sometimes the best option is IVF. This depends on your age, treatment history or if you have issues with Fallopian tube patency. More information regarding these treatments can be found in their respective information brochures.

If several unsuccessful IUI attempts result in an indication for an IVF treatment, your treating nurse or physician will go through the next step with you; this depends on the amount of sperm we have in storage for your donor as well as the quality of the sperm.

Donors 'on hold'

Everyone has the risk of having a baby with a congenital disorder. This risk is roughly 3-5%. Even with the extensive screening for hereditary disorders, children born from donated sperm may still be born with a congenital disorder. If we receive word that a child with a congenital disorder is born after a treatment using donated sperm, we immediately put this donor 'on hold'. This means that all (ongoing) treatments that use this donor are paused. We will first conduct a thorough investigation and consult a clinical geneticist in order to determine whether this is a hereditary disorder or not. The treatments that are on hold will only be continued once we're absolutely certain that there is no hereditary factor at play. If there is a hereditary factor, a new donor will be selected if possible.

This may, in rare cases, lead to an unexpected delay of weeks or even months in your treatment plan. We ask for your understanding, should this be the case.

Result of pregnancy

The chance of conceiving a child after a treatment using donated sperm is difficult to predict, as it depends on many different factors. We know the recipient's age is a major factor, as is her medical history. On average, roughly 60-70% of the women who receive treatments using donated sperm do eventually conceive a child.

We will try our utmost to make your treatment a success. If you do conceive a child after receiving a treatment using donated sperm, we ask you to keep us updated on the progress of your pregnancy. Once the pregnancy can officially be classified as an ongoing pregnancy (at least twelve weeks), we'll register the pregnancy with the SDKB. When a child is born, that information is also relayed to them. This is required by law. If there are any anomalies with the pregnancy or your child, please let us know as soon as possible.

This information is meant for women who are considering treatments using donated sperm at the MCK Fertility Center. This information, together with any other information given to you by a physician or nurse, is meant to help you make an educated choice on whether you want to become a donor or not. This information is subject to change.

For any feedback regarding this information brochure, please let us know at info@mckinderwens.nl.