

CAUSES OF HUMAN INFERTILITY

Female Infertility

1. **Blocked oviducts** - the egg cannot naturally travel from ovary to uterus and sperm cannot reach egg. Usually caused by Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)

Possible treatment - in vitro fertilization

2. **Failure to Ovulate** - an egg is not released on a regular basis each month or not at all. This is due to a hormonal imbalance, for a variety of reasons, including overweight or underweight

Possible treatment - superovulation with fertility drugs

3. **Endometriosis** - a painful condition where the endometrium develops outside of the uterus

Possible treatment - Woman would not be able to carry child, may have to use a surrogate mother. In surrogacy the woman's eggs are extracted, fertilized with the man's sperm in vitro and implanted into the uterus of another woman.

4. **Damaged eggs**- may be caused by environmental factors or treatments for diseases such as cancer

Possible treatment - cryopreservation may be done before cancer treatment to freeze eggs or even embryos to use later for in vitro

5. **No Partner** - woman wants a child without a partner

Possible treatment - artificial insemination, where the sperm is placed inside the uterus by the physician

Male Infertility

6. **Low sperm count** - could be caused by overheated testicles, infections or toxic substances like smoking or alcohol

Possible treatment - artificial insemination where the sperm can be collected and concentrated or could be a sperm donor

7. **Obstruction** in the vas deferens, epididymis or narrow urethra

Possible treatment - artificial insemination

8. **High Proportion of Abnormal Sperm** - may have been caused by overheated testicles, infections or toxic substances

Possible treatment - if a man is about to undergo cancer treatments he may choose cryopreservation before undergoing chemotherapy. If the damage is already done, a sperm donor and artificial insemination are choices.