

Title:

Addressing Psychological needs of patients treated for infertility: an international study of practice challenges reported by reproductive physicians.

Conference:

European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) 2014

Author(s):

Suzanne Murray, AXDEV Group Inc.
Khalid Awartani, King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center, Obstetrics & Gynecology Section of Reproductive Medicine
Sophie Peloquin, AXDEV Group Inc.

Objectives:

The objective of this Study was to identify: What are the challenges reported by physicians who treat and manage patients with fertility issues-from differential diagnosis, to testing, to recommended treatment, to managing and addressing the patients' psychological needs?

Key Points:

This study focuses on reported challenges pertaining to addressing patients' psychological needs. Skills and confidence gaps were identified in: 1) assessing the patient's psychological status, 2) assessing the patients' parenting skills and 3) identifying the patient's needs for psychological and emotional support. Significant differences were observed between countries.

This study highlights the perceived challenges and gaps of reproductive physicians regarding their own ability and confidence at addressing patient's psychological needs in infertility treatments. Closing this gap could contribute to reduction in patients' anxiety and stress and maximization of ART treatment outcomes. Further studies could investigate the presence of those clinical gaps with other members of the clinical team.