

## **A SURVEY OF PUBLIC OPINION IN THE UNITED STATES REGARDING UTERINE TRANSPLANTATION**

**Objective:** Our objective was to evaluate opinions and attitudes of the general public regarding uterine transplantation (UTx) in the United States (U.S.).

**Design:** Cross-sectional study (Canadian Task Force Classification II-2)

**Setting:** Web-based survey.

**Patients(s):** Nationally representative sample of adult U.S. residents by age and gender.

**Intervention(s):** Web-based questionnaire administered in November 2016.

**Main Outcome Measure(s):** Respondents who supported UTx were compared with those who were opposed using log binomial regression to calculate relative risk ratios and 95% confidence intervals

**Result(s):** Of the 1,444 respondents recruited, 1,337 (93%) completed the survey. Ninety respondents (6%) disagreed with use of in vitro fertilization for any indication and were excluded. Of the remaining 1,247 respondents, 977 (78%) supported and 48 (4%) opposed allowing women to undergo UTx. Respondents with higher yearly incomes and education level were more likely to agree that “taking the uterus from one person and putting it into another person is ethical.” Respondents who answered that UTx is safe for the donor, recipient, and baby were more likely to believe that UTx is an acceptable, ethical alternative to a gestational carrier (GC). Forty-five percent of respondents believed that UTx should be covered by insurance, while 24% did not.

**Conclusions:** The majority of respondents in a sample of U.S. residents support UTx, find it ethical, and believe that it is an acceptable alternative to a GC, though support varies. These findings suggest that the U.S. public is in favor of uterine transplantation as a treatment for uterine-factor infertility.

## **UTERINE TRANSPLANTATION: A SURVEY OF PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES OF AMERICAN REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGISTS AND MINIMALLY INVASIVE GYNECOLOGIC SURGEONS**

**Objective:** To determine whether physicians support uterine transplantation (UTx) as an ethical treatment option for absolute uterine factor infertility (AUI).

**Design:** Cross-sectional study.

**Setting:** Web-based survey.

**Patients(s):** Physician members of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) and the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL)

**Intervention(s):** Web-based questionnaire administered between January and February 2017.

**Main Outcome Measure(s):** Support (strongly agree or agree) for or opposition (strongly disagree or disagree) to various aspects of UTx were described using descriptive statistics and analyzed using Chi-squared tests.

**Result(s):** A total of 414 physicians (ASRM 49.5%, AAGL 50.5%) responded to the web-based survey; 43.7% were female, 52.4% were between the ages of 45-65, and 73.4% were white. 55.8% supported women in being allowed to donate or receive a transplanted uterus. When donating a uterus, 54.4% agreed that UTx carried an acceptable risk for donors, 28.0% for the recipient and 21.0% for the resulting infant. 42.5% agreed that UTx should be considered a therapeutic option for women with AUI, but only 19.6% felt it should be covered by insurance. Only 44.9% of respondents felt UTx to be ethical. The most common ethical concerns regarding UTx were related to medical or surgical complications to the recipient (48.8%).

**Conclusion(s):** Just under half of sub-specialists surveyed find UTx to be an ethical option for patients with absolute uterine factor infertility. There are important concerns regarding risk to donors, recipients, and resulting infants, all contributing to only a minority recommending it as a therapeutic option.