

Cambridge University Press

0521602734 - Evaluation and Treatment of the Infertile Male - Edited by Grace M. Centola and Kenneth A. Ginsburg

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EVALUATION AND TREATMENT
OF THE INFERTILE MALE

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EVALUATION AND TREATMENT OF THE INFERTILE MALE

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To Nick and Michael for their support, patience and unending humor,
and to Mom and Dad for their constant love and support
G.M.C.

For Mom and Dad, who made it possible
For Bonnie, who helped it happen
And for Kate and Kevin, who make it all worthwhile
K.A.G.

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Preface

Infertility is defined as one year of unprotected intercourse without a conception. Infertility is a couple phenomenon, affecting both partners due either to medical or surgical problems, psychological issues, or both. It occurs in 1 in every 5, or 20% of couples. Of this 20%, 40% of cases are thought to be due primarily to female factors, 40% primarily to male factors, and 20% to both male and female factors.

During the last decade there has also been increased research into the causes and treatments of infertility. Many anatomical, physiological, biochemical, psychological and genetic abnormalities have been identified as associated with human reproduction, and infertility in the female. Yet, factors related to male fertility, such as sperm maturation, sperm capacitation and fertilization, remain a mystery. The study of male fertility – andrology – is currently at the same place that gynecologic infertility was twenty years ago. Many physicians' offices and clinics are not equipped to evaluate and treat the large range of infertility problems. Residents often spend very little time with the fertility specialist, in the fertility clinic or andrology laboratory. The ability to thoroughly evaluate, diagnose and treat male factor infertility are essential parts of the physician's education.

The focus of this book is the evaluation and treatment of the infertile male. It is aimed at the office-based physician who needs a reference on the basic aspects of the investigation, evaluation and diagnosis of the male partner. Current treatment options are provided. Although it is not expected that all physicians will have such treatment options readily available in their offices or affiliated hospitals, we hope that this text will provide the information needed to initiate treatment, and at the very least locate appropriate referral centers. This text should be useful to the general gynecologist and urologist, as well as the primary care physician who is often involved in the initial evaluation of the infertile couple.

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Preface

Management of the infertile couple is a team effort – andrologists, gynecologists, urologists, as well as family practitioners and psychologists, often join forces for the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of the couple. This team approach is reflected in the diverse array of contributors to this book. We have assembled national leaders in the field of infertility, including urologists, andrologists, and reproductive endocrinologists. We hope to provide both physicians and residents with a general basic knowledge of male dysfunction, what tests are available and when they should be employed, how to interpret the results, and ultimately how to treat the dysfunction.

G.M.C.

K.A.G.

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