



Absentee Husband Dealing With Fertility Issues

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Introduction

The global infertility rates are increasing at an alarming pace. The ascending rates of infertility is of global concern, affecting approximately 8-12% of couples world-wide¹⁻³. The majority of women experience some form of reproductive disorder over the course of life as well as many chronic diseases and the absence of their husband makes the scenario more complicated. Absentee husband and their fertility issues have remained an unresolved problem for infertility specialists. Infertility is characterized as the failure to establish a clinical pregnancy after one year or more despite having regular unprotected coitus². There are two types, primary and secondary infertility.

Previously, infertility was considered to be a female incompetence, but recent data has shown that a male factor is solely responsible in about 20% of infertile couples and contributory in another 30-40%.

Objectives

The objective of our study is to find out the reproductive outcome of husbands living at home and abroad and compare them.

Materials & Methods

This cross-sectional prospective study was carried out over 2 years and 6 months between June, 2020 and November, 2022 at Surgiscope fertility Centre, Chattogram, Bangladesh among 200 couples. The data included answers to objective specified questionnaire, history and semen analysis reports of male partners. Inclusion criteria were all absentee husband (who lives abroad), husbands who had tried for conception for at least 1 or more year and husband who has done Semen Analysis. Criteria of exclusion are couples who have not continued infertility treatment for at least 6 months, husbands whose FNAC report reveals no spermatogenesis.

Statistical Analysis

The variables selected were: patient parameters like- age of patient, age of wife, duration of togetherness, conception, level of education. Parameters related to semen analysis include seminal appearance, seminal liquefaction time, seminal consistency, semen volume, pH, sperm concentration, total sperm number,

total motility, progressive motility, non-progressive motility, normal sperm morphology, abnormal sperm morphology. Of these variables, age, conception, level of education were recorded as categorical variables. Other variables were taken as continuous variables. After taking Cross table analysis and using the Chi-square test, we got the result. A p-value of <0.05 was considered to be significant. Data were entered in SPSS version 26.

Results

Among the study population 35% of husbands living abroad and 62.50% husbands living at home achieved natural conception, 15% living at abroad and 20% living at home achieved singleton Intra-uterine insemination (IUI) conception, 32 % living at abroad and 36 % living at home achieved singleton In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) conception and 33.3% living at abroad and 26.67% living at home achieved twin IVF conception. The total conception rate (both natural and Assisted Reproductive Technology supported conception) of husbands living at abroad 30% and husbands living at home 42%.

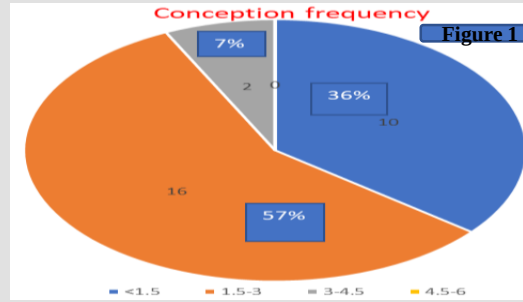


Figure 1 shows the percentage distribution of women whose husbands living abroad, conceived after receiving fertility treatment where the highest conception rate 57% found in couple who lived together for 1.5 to 3 years and the lowest conception rate 7% found in couple who lived together for 3 to 4.5 years.

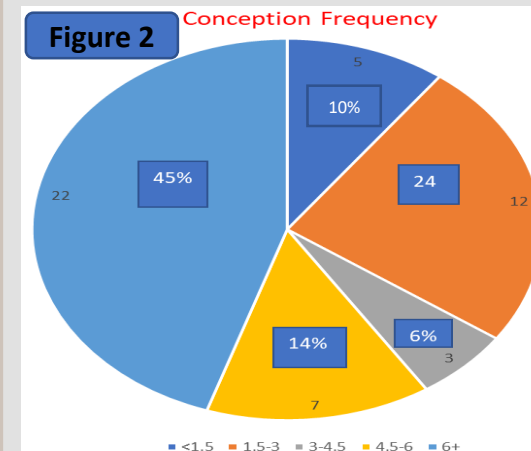


Figure 2 shows the percentage distribution of women whose husbands living at home, conceived after receiving fertility treatment

where the highest conception rate 45% found in couple who lived together for <1.5 years and the lowest conception rate 6% found in couple who lived together for years for 3 to 4.5 years.

Conclusions

Male factor infertility plays an important role in reproductive outcome of infertile couples. There is significant association between conception rate and duration of togetherness of couples. Further studies should be carried out involving large number of participants in multiple centers to specify the reproductive outcome of absentee husbands.

References

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