Fertility Treatments in the United States: Improving Access and Outcomes

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1. What infertility treatments do you offer in your practice? How does insurance and socioeconomic status influence access?

2. Create a table that compares and contrasts both assisted reproductive technologies (ART) and non-ART therapies for infertility. Which of these are covered by insurance in your practice? What is the approximate cost of each of these therapies?

3. For your patients that elect to undergo ART, is it common practice to transfer more than one embryo? Discuss what influences the decision to transfer one or more than one embryo in your patients.

4. A number of states have mandated that insurers cover some of the costs associated with fertility treatments (see http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/insurance-coverage-for-infertility-laws.aspx). Does your state have such legislation?

5. Some countries have enacted legislation to link reimbursement for ART services to single embryo transfers. Discuss the ethical issues surrounding these mandates.


7. Discuss whether or not limiting the number of embryos transferred in ART will ultimately lead to a reduction in the number of multiple births. What other infertility treatments lead to multiple births? How might these infertility interventions be changed or monitored to decrease multiple births?

8. The authors state that many couples express a desire to have twins following treatment for infertility. Discuss how you would design an educational program for couples undergoing infertility treatment to help them better understand the risks of multiple birth to the mother and babies. How would you administer the educational program so that it was most effective?