

The influence on couples treated with multifetal pregnancy reduction

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INTRODUCTION: 11.4% of patients had a multifetal pregnancy after receiving HMG treatment and ART in our clinic, and some of them wished to be treated with multifetal pregnancy reduction (MPR). We surveyed what couples received MPR treatment think about the procedure and the influence of their lives after treatment.

METHODS: Questionnaires were sent to 27 couples who were treated with MPR in our clinic between 1993-2000.

RESULTS: 5/27 were dead letters, 13/22 were returned (59.1%), and while 84.6% decided by themselves to be treated with MPR. Comparing the answers of husbands and wives how they thought about receiving MPR before and after delivery, 76.9% of wives had thought about it, while in contrast, only about half of husbands had thought about it. In addition, 84.6% of wives and only 36.4% of husbands don't wish to inform their children that they had been treated with MPR.

CONCLUSIONS: Before operation, the couples who received MPR thought it was their own problem, but opinion tended to be divided, with wives seeing it negatively and husbands seeing it positively after the operation. The low return rate suggests that MPR has a harmful influence on the couples. MPR should be regarded as a form of medical treatment not to be practiced in Japan from a bioethical viewpoint. We have to take precautionary measures for multiple pregnancy not to become a sought-after procedure.