

8th, April 2020

Announcement for COVID-19

To Our Patients:

A novel strain of coronavirus COVID-19 (COVID-19) is highly infectious and widespread as an emerging infectious disease that cause severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Any negative effects of COVID-19 infection on pregnancy, especially during early pregnancy, are not known and transmission from mother to fetus is also unclear. Although no increased risk of COVID-19 has been reported for pregnant women, still pregnancy states may lead to severe illness and some medications currently in development are contraindicated in pregnant women. So that, we may have to say that treatments of COVID-19 after pregnancy will be difficult.

Health Organization such as World Health Organization (WHO), academic societies of reproductive medicine around the world and the Japanese Society of Reproductive Medicine released the recommendation to offer deferring or discontinuing fertility treatment to patients. This includes intrauterine insemination, *in-vitro* fertilization / embryo transfer and other reproductive surgeries. However, this statement does not mention the prospect of resuming fertility treatments. It is expected that it will take years to develop vaccines or to have the majority of people infected and antibody retention.

We are practically involved in fertility care and recognize the importance of every cycle for you and declines of fertility and treatment outcome in terms of years. Therefore, we will consider your age, medical and other circumstances and will offer the individual evidence-based treatment plan such as embryo / egg / sperm freezing, although we advise the option of postponing or discontinuing fertility treatment.

We would be very grateful if you could fully understand methods and results of fertility treatment, consult with us and take a consideration of postponing or continuing your treatment. Please ask us if you have any

questions. We would like to proceed your treatment following discussion whether change or continue the treatment as per your request. We hope the conditions created by COVID-19 pandemic will not make you distressed.

In addition, it is important to take all precautions possible to reduce your risk of exposure to COVID-19 by following current recommendations of Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and regional government, such as handwashing with soap and practicing social (physical) distancing and to be mindful of your health and mental health with well balanced. We also recommend smoking cessation including your family. Please inform us in advance about any cold symptoms such as fever and your family's history. We appreciate your wearing a mask when you visit.

We will continue to monitor and inform you about the scientific information in relation to COVID-19, reproductive medicine and pregnancy. Our hospital can provide seamless medical care from pre-gestational, pregnancy to childbirth and we hope to support you to the full.

We sincerely appreciate your understanding and consideration.

*Please be informed that this announcement is based on current information and our response will change according to subsequent situation.

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