

Pacific Reproductive Services

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SPERM BANK SERVICES FOR CLIENT DEPOSITORS

PACIFIC REPRODUCTIVE SERVICES (PRS) is a sperm bank specializing in sperm freezing and storage for individuals and in performing inseminations when pregnancy is desired. Our staff is dedicated to helping individuals who wish to bank their sperm for any reason. Many of our clients are either about to undergo radiation or chemotherapy or are considering vasectomy. Other clients may be trying to conceive while they or their partner are separated by travel necessities. Our offices are in San Francisco and Pasadena, California.

SOME FACTS ABOUT SPERM FREEZING AND INSEMINATION

The first successful sperm freezing technique was developed in the 1950's. Researchers learned that sperm could not survive freezing without adding some agents that prevented the cells from rupturing during freezing and thawing. These agents are called cryoprotectants and are usually composed of glycerol, proteins, minerals, salts and other buffering agents. The cryoprotectant is slowly added to the fresh ejaculate, and the sperm is gradually cooled and then frozen in liquid nitrogen at a temperature of -195 degrees centigrade. It is normal for about half of the sperm cells to die during the freezing and thawing process. Sperm that show robust motility in the fresh ejaculate can usually survive several years when cryopreserved (frozen).

It is generally accepted that it takes about 10 to 25 million motile sperm for conception to occur through insemination, though many other factors influence whether there is a successful pregnancy. Normally, men produce from between 20 million to 200 million sperm per 1 cc (cubic centimeter) with each ejaculation. Illness, stress and other factors can cause a low sperm production and/or motility. Though expensive, some advanced assisted reproductive procedures such as In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) are available for such cases.

Studies have shown that it takes an average of six to eight months for a woman to conceive through artificial insemination with frozen sperm. Many factors influence if and when a woman will conceive, including her age, the condition of her reproductive system, the method of insemination or other assisted reproductive procedure and whether fertility drugs are used.

At PRS, a man may bank as many or as few specimens of his semen as desired. PRS will help each client determine how many specimens he should deposit. Men who are about to undergo chemotherapy or radiation therapy may only have time to make one or two deposits before they must begin their treatments.

WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE FOR THE MAN WHO WANTS TO BANK HIS SPERM?

- **A VISIT TO ONE OF PRS' OFFICES**

In a single visit to our office the man can bank his first specimen after first briefly meeting with one of our health professionals. During this first visit, he is given information that will help him decide how many deposits he should make to ensure an adequate supply for future inseminations. He is then shown to a private room where he can collect his specimen in a provided sterile cup. The specimen is examined for the presence and number of motile sperm (Semen Analysis) and then frozen by the method previously described.

- **A SINGLE BLOOD TEST FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

Tissue banking regulations require testing for specific infectious diseases:

HIV 1 & 2 (for the virus that causes AIDS)
HTLV-I and II
RPR (for syphilis)
HCV (for Hepatitis C)
HBsAG and HBcAB (for Hepatitis B).

Due to sperm banking regulations, these tests must be done at PRS's office during the client's initial visit.

- **ADDITIONAL DEPOSITS FOR CRYOPRESERVATION AS DESIRED**

After his initial deposit, a very small fraction of the man's semen specimen is thawed and examined in order to determine the number of surviving sperm and the quality of their motility. That information is used to help him decide whether he needs to adjust the number of deposits initially planned. Appointments are then made for additional deposits desired.

PLEASE NOTE: Among the blood tests we will perform is a test for the cytomegalovirus (CMV). In healthy individuals this virus can cause mild flu symptoms, which resolve without complications. However, infection with CMV of a woman during pregnancy can be passed to her fetus and can cause serious problems in the child after birth.

The blood test taken today will test for any exposure you may have had to the CMV virus. If it is negative, then you haven't been exposed to CMV and the semen we are storing will not infect the fetus. If it is **positive**, we will **automatically** send a second blood test to Lab Corps to determine if you have a current infection or simply past exposure to the virus (it is unlikely that your test will show a current infection).

We will contact you only in the unlikely event that your test shows you have a current infection.

PLEASE SEE OUR FEE SCHEDULE