

IRB number: 6519

Project title: Demographics of Male Patients seeking Infertility Treatment

Summary

Infertility treatment is mainly considered as “elective” care and may only be available to those with adequate resources to cover the cost. Patients may only represent a select sample of the general population that is able to access infertility services. Identifying different patterns in patients’ characteristics may help optimizing infertility diagnostic and therapeutic services. The objective of our study was to assess whether there is any homogeneity amongst the patient pool seeking services for infertility at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

In our study, we have retrospectively reviewed records from 1125 that pursued infertility services at the Cleveland Clinic main campus between 1999-2002. There were no inclusion and exclusion criteria except that the patients had been seen during that specified period. Subsequently, we have generated a database containing the demographic criteria of these male patients.

The following information, if available, were recorded for each patient: name, race, marital status, date of birth, medical coverage, religion, occupation, residence, referring physician, spouse age, spouse occupation, tobacco use, alcohol use, and etiology of infertility. All data as well as patient’s personal information were coded, and the results of certain relationships and comparisons are being evaluated. This shall provide important information regarding the current scope of infertility services as well as future directions.