

EDITORIAL

SUBFERTILITY: A HEALTH ISSUE - PATIENTS DESERVE OUR ATTENTION

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In the modern world era, subfertility is a common health issue. Around 8 to 12% of reproductive-age couples are affected worldwide. Although, considering a woman's social burden, male subfertility is more common and prevalent.¹ However, few regions of the world has much higher rate of subfertility upto 30%, like South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.²⁻⁵ Infertility is taken as a stigma in society which has various psychological implications for affected couples.⁶ As physicians, we can play a sensitive role to strip away the stigma.

According to a survey, subfertility is a major health issue worldwide affecting 8-12% of couples and male factor contributes around 40% of the burden of subfertility.⁴ By definition subfertility is male or female reproductive system failure to achieve a pregnancy after 12 months or more of regular unprotected sexual intercourse. Primary subfertility is when a pregnancy has never been achieved by a person, and secondary subfertility is when at least one prior pregnancy has been achieved.⁷

Studies suggest that subfertility is associated with increased psychological distress and social burden

KEY WORDS: Male subfertility; Sexual intercourse; Psychological distress; Environmental exposures; reproductive system.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST
Authors declare no conflict of interest.
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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

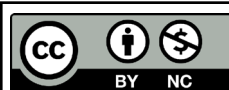
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Conception or Design: SA, AS

Acquisition, Analysis or Interpretation of Data: SA, AS

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All the authors agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.



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