

FLORIDA DOCTOR CREATES NEW FAMILIES WITH TECHNOLOGY THAT MEASURE GENETIC VIABILITY OF EMBRYOS

Boca Raton – December 11, 2006 – Six miscarriages and a trip across the ocean brought a Romanian couple to the South Florida offices of Dr. Mark S. Denker. The couple was searching for a remedy to their infertility – an increasingly common ailment among a population that is aging and among those trying to build a family within a second or third marriage. They located Denker via the Internet.

Dr. Denker, who has specialized in technological methods of evaluation and treatment for infertility for more than 12 years, employed a specialized genetic test, PGD, to biopsy the couple's embryos. After using in vitro fertilization (IVF), a term that literally means "fertilization outside the body," Dr. Denker then tested his theory that the patient was producing embryos that suffered from an abnormal balance of chromosomes, which were resulting in her multiple miscarriages.

Dr. Denker estimates that more than 70 percent of miscarriages are due to genetic deformities within the embryo, and growing numbers of couples are searching for more advanced, specialized treatments to increase their odds of conception.

The PGD test, or Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis, allowed him to screen her embryos for such disorders. Using this method, it is currently possible to test for more than 100 genetic disorders, including cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, Tay-Sachs disease, Huntington disease, hemophilia, and some types of leukemia. Additionally, physicians can also test for the presence of the x and y chromosomes, which determine the sex.

Dr. Denker got this far in their treatment while conquering a language barrier. While the husband was learning English, the wife knew none, and all conversations were painstakingly translated. Dr. Denker also had their medical records from treatment centers in Canada and Germany translated by another patient who was German.

In the end, he determined that she needed to use donor eggs since her own featured a rearrangement of the chromosomes that made it impossible for them to conceive children who were genetically normal.

"She suffered from what we call a balanced translocation. Although all the cells in her body had the normal amount of genetic material, all the eggs she produced had either too much or too little- resulting in the same problem in the fetus. Since all her eggs were bad, she needed donor eggs," he said. "They initially got pregnant with triplets that eventually became twins. All of this happened within a calendar year. They walked in the door in January and had twins by December."

The twins, who reside in Romania with their family, are about 2 years old now.

“When searching for a fertility specialist, I advise people to look for expertise and experience. Your doctor must practice carefulness and evaluate all of your information. Look for someone who gives you individual attention, who really takes the time to review the past records,” Dr. Denker said. “For most people, it’s a combination of medical skill and persistence that will give couples a better chance of getting pregnant. Never give up. You shouldn’t give up because we never do.”

Dr. Denker graduated medical school from Baylor College of Medicine and completed a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Michael Reese Hospital in Illinois. He completed a fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology at the University of California and won the 1st prize paper at the Pacific Coast Fertility Society for his innovative research on the molecular biology of infertility. He has been a featured speaker at the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and the Association of Gynecological Laparoscopy.

Learn more at www.palmbeachfertility.com or call (800) 953-BABY.