

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87289-8 - Infertility in the Male, Fourth Edition

Edited by Larry I. Lipshultz, Stuart S. Howards and Craig S. Niederberger

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Contents

List of contributors page vii

Foreword by Alan H. DeCherney xi

-
- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Anatomy and embryology of the male reproductive tract and gonadal development 1
Jane M. Lewis & William E. Kaplan</p> <p>2 Male hypothalamic–pituitary–gonadal axis 14
Ettore Caroppo</p> <p>3 Leydig cell development and function 29
Barry R. Zirkin, Vassilios Papadopoulos, & Matthew P. Hardy</p> <p>4 The Sertoli cell: morphology, function, and regulation 48
Joseph P. Alukal & Dolores J. Lamb</p> <p>5 Spermatogenesis in the adult 74
Joseph P. Alukal, Dolores J. Lamb, Craig S. Niederberger, & Antoine A. Makhlouf</p> <p>6 The epididymis and accessory sex organs 90
Terry T. Turner</p> <p>7 An overview of the molecular mechanisms involved in human fertilization 104
Mónica H. Vazquez-Levin & Clara I. Marín-Briggiler</p> <p>8 New concepts in the genetics of male reproduction and infertility 122
Paul J. Turek</p> <p>9 Erection, emission, and ejaculation: mechanisms of control 132
Alexander Müller & John P. Mulhall</p> <p>10 Office evaluation of the subfertile male 153
Mark Sigman, Larry I. Lipshultz, & Stuart S. Howards</p> <p>11 Evaluation of sperm function 177
Armand Zini & Mark Sigman</p> | <p>12 Endocrine evaluation 199
Rebecca Z. Sokol</p> <p>13 Testicular biopsy in male infertility evaluation 215
Joseph P. Alukal, Mohit Khera, & Thomas M. Wheeler</p> <p>14 Adverse effects of environmental chemicals and drugs on the male reproductive system 226
James V. Bruckner, David M. Fenig, & Larry I. Lipshultz</p> <p>15 Genetic aspects of infertility 251
Robert D. Oates & Dolores J. Lamb</p> <p>16 Immunologic infertility 277
Thomas J. Walsh & Paul J. Turek</p> <p>17 The effect of genital tract infection and inflammation on male infertility 295
Sanjay S. Kasturi, E. Charles Osterberg, Justin Tannir, & Robert E. Brannigan</p> <p>18 Varicocele 331
Harris M. Nagler & Aaron B. Grotas</p> <p>19 Evaluation of female infertility for the non-gynecologist 362
R. Dale McClure & Nancy A. Klein</p> <p>20 The use of ultrasound and radiologic imaging in the diagnosis of male infertility 375
Saleh Binsaleh, Myles Margolis, Keith Jarvi, & Kirk C. Lo</p> <p>21 Microsurgical treatment of male infertility 392
Edmund S. Sabanegh Jr. & Anthony J. Thomas Jr.</p> <p>22 Techniques of sperm retrieval 407
Edward Karpman & Daniel H. Williams IV</p> |
|--|--|

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>23 Management of ejaculatory duct obstruction 421
Aleksander Chudnovsky & Victor M. Brugh III</p> <p>24 Nonsurgical treatment of male infertility: specific therapy 430
Jesse N. Mills & Randall B. Meacham</p> <p>25 Nonsurgical treatment of male infertility: empiric therapy 438
Karen E. Boyle</p> <p>26 Abnormalities of ejaculation 454
Nancy L. Brackett, Dana A. Ohl, Jens Sønksen, & Charles M. Lynne</p> <p>27 Male contraception and vasectomy 474
Stanton C. Honig & Jay I. Sandlow</p> <p>28 Intrauterine insemination from the urologist's perspective 493
Christine Mullin, James Stelling, & Richard A. Schoor</p> <p>29 In-vitro fertilization and micromanipulation for male infertility 500
Rodrigo L. Pagani, Paulo C. Serafini, & Miguel Srougi</p> <p>30 Psychological issues of infertility and assisted reproductive technology 516
Linda D. Applegarth</p> <p>31 Legal issues in fertility preservation in the male 528
Susan L. Crockin & Elizabeth M. Bloom</p> <p>32 Analyzing male fertility data 541
Antoine A. Makhlouf & Craig S. Niederberger</p> <p>33 Semen analysis 550
Susan A. Rothmann & Angela A. Reese</p> | <p>34 Strict criteria for sperm morphology 574
Grace M. Centola & Rajasingam S. Jeyendran</p> <p>35 Sperm processing techniques 582
Grace M. Centola & Rajasingam S. Jeyendran</p> <p>36 Sperm banking: indications and techniques 593
Moshe Wald & Gail S. Prins</p> <p>37 Tests for antisperm antibodies 603
Suresh C. Sikka & Wayne J. G. Hellstrom</p> <p>38 Semen white blood cell assay 613
Joseph A. Politch & Deborah J. Anderson</p> <p>39 Determination of seminal oxidants (reactive oxygen species) 618
Ashok Agarwal & Fnu Deepinder</p> <p>40 Measurement of DNA fragmentation in human spermatozoa 633
Denny Sakkas</p> <p>41 A look towards the future: advances in andrology expected to revolutionize the diagnosis and treatment of the infertile male 642
Dolores J. Lamb</p> |
|--|---|
-
- Index* 654
Color plate section appears between pages 276 and 277.

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Foreword

Alan H. DeCherney

This fourth edition of *Infertility in the Male* certainly disproves the call to arms of the reproductive medicine community: when, in 1992, ICSI (intracytoplasmic sperm injection) appeared in the armamentarium of the infertility physicians it was claimed that urologists no longer had a role in the management of infertile men, except for obtaining sperm. This concept is certainly refuted and defeated by this exquisite revision of a book whose first edition was published in 1983.

The editors have assembled all of the leaders in the field to contribute on their individual areas of expertise, yet the text has editorial consistency. All of the chapters are extremely well written, providing a basic foundation for practice and for the understanding of male factors in infertility. The contributions are critical and crucial, with exciting new information combining modern insights on topics such as the determination of seminal oxidants, the measurement of DNA fragmentation and its role in infertility, and the genetic and epidemiologic impact on infertility, to cite just a few, along with historically documented concepts.

The book is well organized, and it is fascinating to follow the course of the field through its development and enhancement by rigorous scientific research. Of special interest is the in-depth chapter on analyzing male fertility data: as the authors put it, “our knowledge of male infertility, its causes and treatments, ultimately derives from raw observational and experimental data. Transforming those data into information depends on statistical analysis.” This chapter provides a basic understanding of statistical analysis, which, although brief, is thorough.

The chapter on adverse effects of environmental chemicals and drugs illustrates how current this text is, as does the material on microdeletions found in the Y chromosome. It is clear that male factor infertility is a viable and exciting subspecialty of urology with a bright, sanguine, and important future. This is further illustrated by the stimulating chapter on genetic aspects of infertility, which includes a discussion of apoptotic

changes – research which will be applied in the clinic setting in the future.

The book provides comprehensive descriptions of normal and abnormal male reproductive physiology and pathophysiology, while also supplying great insights into diagnosis and treatment of the range of conditions underlying infertility in the male. It is therefore the “bible” for urologists, urologists in training, and individuals having a profound interest in male reproduction (i.e. reproductive endocrinologists).

This beautifully illustrated and well-edited text also provides an exciting forum for what the future holds. The book not only provides academic material, but also serves as a manual for carrying out procedures. This is a required read for anyone interested in male infertility.