**Sperm donation : Risks and complications :**

## I) Ethics :

## Misleading Donor Information

At the time of donation, the sperm bank and donor create a donor profile containing information about the donor. Information such as eye and hair color, height is typically contained on the donor information sheet, and is also easily verified. However, other information such as family history and education are not so easily verifiable. This leaves open the possibility that the donor will lie on his information sheet to be chosen as a donor and receive payment. Because of this, it is extremely important to thoroughly research the sperm bank and donor prior to choosing.

**Future Donor Contact**

Prior to using donated sperm, the recipients should decide whether they want to use a known or anonymous donor. While the bank will provide contracts for all parties that should state that the donor has no claims over any child developed from his sperm, there is always the risk that the child will want to contact his biological father or that the donor will break the contract and seek out the child. The contracts will protect all parties to some extent, but cannot prevent the possibility of the donor showing up some day and demanding access to the child. This could lead to a court case for custody.

Sperm Donor Rights:

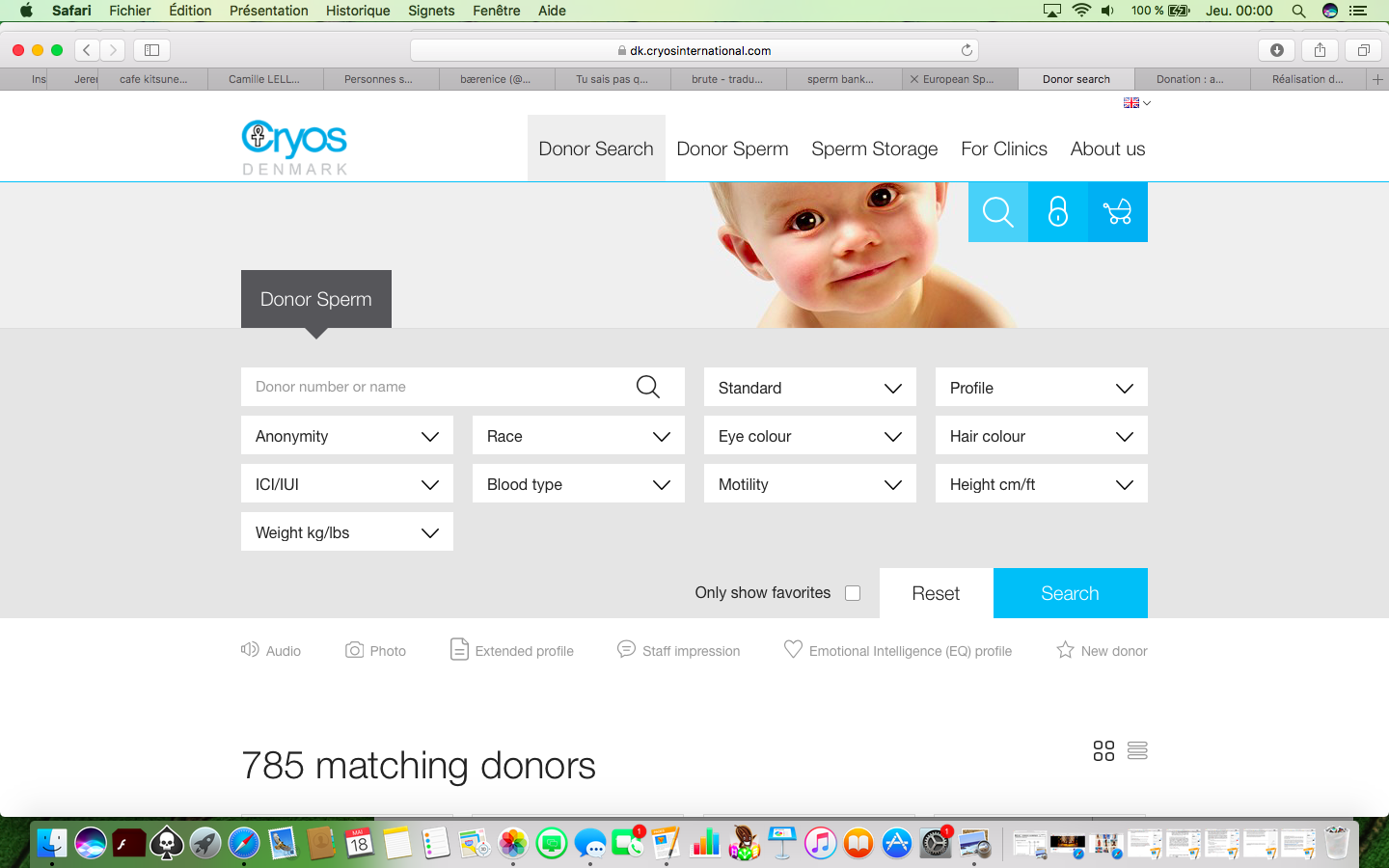
The identity of the donor shall remain anonymous.  The clients have no right to learn the identity of the donor or solicit donor identifying information from any other source.  The donor shall also be free from any responsibility to the biological offspring produced by his sperm.

Client Rights:

The clients have the right to be informed of the limitations and potential complications involved with sperm donation.  Sperm donation is not always successful and multiple treatments might have to be performed.  Also, the sperm bank cannot completely guarantee that the sperm they provide is disease free or free of genetic abnormalities.  Although genetic testing and disease screening techniques are advanced and sensitive, they are not foolproof.  The client also must understand that she/he is fully responsible for the offspring conceived by use of the specimens.

Sperm donor and client rights are usually established via an informed consent form that is signed by the client and verified by the client's doctor.  This form ensures that the client understands his/her rights and the rights of the sperm donor.  The principle of informed consent is based on the principles of scientific and medical ethics.

**The Ethics of Choosing Sperm:**

Sperm banks differ in their selection of sperm donors.  All are highly selective, but some are more selective than others.  For example, California Cryobank only accepts donors who attend or have graduated from a "major four-year university."  Donors must also be tall, trim, heterosexual, and between 19 and 34 years old.  One sperm bank, the Repository of Germinal Choice at one time only accepted sperm from Nobel Prize winners.  Other sperm banks like CryoGam Colorado, Inc. are selective, but not excessively so.  They carry a more "normal" gene pool and their philosophy reflects a distaste for elitism.  The disparity between ultra selective sperm banks and ones that cater to a more "normal" population raise ethical questions.  Is only providing the most elite sperm a form of eugenics?  As of yet, these ethical issues have not been resolved.  Sperm banks can carry any type of sperm they wish as long as they adhere to proper laboratory standards and respect informed consent. It’s almost like a catalog in which one we can choose our preferences (race, color of eyes, height…).

**How Much Sperm Can Be Donated:**

If a donor sires too many kids, the risk of producing children who will eventually copulate increases.  Although it sounds unbelievable, half brothers and sisters (from the same donor father) have actually married not knowing they were related.  Thus, sperm banks place a limitation on the number of children a donor can produce.  A donor can produce a maximum of ten children with his sperm.  This limit prevents the problem mentioned above and is adhered to by all sperm banks.

**II) Complications with pregnancy** :

**Unviable Sperm**

Even though a bank will perform through checks on the donation and donor, there is always still the possibility that the sperm will not be viable when used. When frozen, the entire donation or just a few sperm can be damaged. There is no guarantee that the sperm will be able to create a pregnancy when used.

**Sperm Rejection**

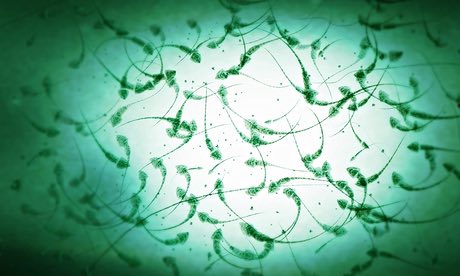
Some recipients and donors are incompatible. Uterine linings, hormone levels and other aspects of the recipient’s body can reject or kill sperm, making it impossible to cause a pregnancy. This does not mean that the recipient’s body will unreceptive to all donated sperm, just that specific donor. It is impossible to predict with certainty whether a donor and recipient will be incompatible. Really the only means by which this will become clear is if the recipient does not become pregnant after inserting the donated sperm.

**Miscarriage**

Even if a pregnancy results from the sperm, there is no guarantee that the pregnancy will be successful and result in a live birth. In every pregnancy there is the risk of potential complications, including a miscarriage or still birth. Unfortunately, there is very little way to prevent miscarriage.

**Unforeseen Congenital Defects**

Despite the extensive research and disclosure of donor information, there is always the chance that a baby will have a genetic or physical deformity. Recessive genes can appear either on the side of the donor or recipient at any time and cause a baby to develop improperly. As it is impossible to predict the interaction of donated sperm and the recipient’s egg, the possibility of a deformed or sick baby is always present.



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The valuable level of donor’s sperm depends on a series of factors, as a type of donor (unknown man or not unknown man), the profile (detailed or not), the motility (MOT), if it’s an ICI (Intra Cervical Insemination =units hold all of the naturally occurring ejaculate fluid and cells —> raw sperm) or an IIU (Intra Uterin Insemination = Before cryopreservation, the sperm cells are separated from the seminal fluid through density gradient, washed and then added a cryopreservative fluid). The price by sample augments if [the](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/the) [motilité](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/motilit%C3%A9) [is](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/is) [higher](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/higher), [if](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/if) [it](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/it) [is](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/is) [about](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/about) [a](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/a) [detailed](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/detailed) [profile](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/profile) [and](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/and) [if](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/if) [it](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/it) [is](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/is) [about](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/about) [a](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/a) [not](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/not) [anonymous](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/anonymous) [donor](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/donor). [The](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/The) [price](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/price) [of](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/of) [the](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/the) [cleaned](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/cleaned) [semen](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/semen) ([IIU](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/IIU)) [is](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/is) [higher](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/higher) [than](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/than) [that](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/that) [some](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/some) [raw](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/raw) [semen](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/semen) ([IIC](http://fr.pons.com/traduction/anglais-fran%C3%A7ais/IIC)). The use of ICI might cause an anaphylactic shock.