

```

<A
href="http://ad.doubleclick.net/jump/b.site146.tmus/conception;ptile=3;pos=3;sz=728x90;ord=123456789?"
target=_blank><IMG height=90 alt=""
src="http://ad.doubleclick.net/ad/b.site146.tmus/conception;ptile=3;pos=3;sz=728x90;ord=123456789?"
width=728 border=0></A>
    
```



Join
Login

About ePregnancy | Contact Information



Understanding and Evaluating Reproductive Technologies

By: Brette McWhorter Sember



Trying to Conceive
Pregnancy
Baby
Parenting

Community
Blogs
Forum
Photo Gallery
Product Recalls
Product Reviews

Shopping Guide
Deals, Freebies & More!

ADVERTISEMENT

```

<A
href="http://ad.doubleclick.net/jump/b.site146.tmus/conception;ptile=5;pos=5;sz=125x125;ord=123456789?"
target=_blank><IMG height=125 alt=""
src="http://ad.doubleclick.net/ad/b.site146.tmus/conception;ptile=5;pos=5;sz=125x125;ord=123456789?"
width=125 border=0></A>
    
```

ADVERTISEMENT

```

<A
href="http://ad.doubleclick.net/jump/b.site146.tmus/conception;ptile=4;pos=4;sz=125x250;ord=123456789?"
target=_blank><IMG height=250 alt=""
src="http://ad.doubleclick.net/ad/b.site146.tmus/conception;ptile=4;pos=4;sz=125x250;ord=123456789?"
width=125 border=0></A>
    
```



If you are considering assisted reproduction, it is important to have a good understanding of why natural conception is not working for you here. Understand what your doctor thinks is realistic for you with the different types of treatment. Many times, you cannot conceive without assistance, but it is important to understand what is available.

Article continues...

ADVERTISEMENT

```

href="http://ad.doubleclick.net/jump/b.site146.tmus/conception;ptile=3;pos=3;sz=300x250;ord=123456789?"
target=_blank><IMG height=250 alt=""
src="http://ad.doubleclick.net/ad/b.site146.tmus/conception;ptile=3;pos=3;sz=300x250;ord=123456789?"
width=300 border=0></A>
    
```

In general, it is best to try the least invasive procedures first. Many assisted reproductive treatments involve input from other people, but many do not. There are many good treatments that are non-invasive and less complicated than others. Understand what is available to you and understand what is most appropriate for you.

What Technology Can Do For You

Technology can help you or your partner become pregnant if your body cannot do so itself, or, allow you to work with options that can seem staggering. Most people begin at the least invasive options and work their way up to more advanced treatments.

What Technology Cannot Do For You

While technology can offer you new ways to become pregnant, it cannot help you cope with the emotional aspects of the process. Technology cannot erase basic biological facts. Technology cannot provide you with a baby that is genetically linked to both parents.

For many couples, it is possible to have a child that is a genetic match for both parents. This raises the issue of what it implies---having a child who will resemble one of you but not the other; and, the inevitable emotional fallout years to come.

Understanding Terminology

The assisted reproductive field is filled with acronyms for which you need definitions of frequently used terms:

ART: assisted reproductive treatment. This is the medical term for any procedure that involves the use of technology to help you become pregnant.

GIFT: gamete intrafallopian transfer. Eggs (either from the woman or from egg donors) are retrieved from the ovaries and placed in a fallopian tube, but allows physicians to carefully select the sperm that will fertilize the egg.

ICSI: intracytoplasmic sperm injection. A single sperm is injected into an egg.

IVF: in vitro fertilization. Eggs are fertilized with sperm c her uterus.

IUI: intrauterine insemination. Ovulation is induced in tr

ZIFT: zygote intrafallopian transfer. Eggs are retrieved f zygote or young embryo is then implanted into the fallo

Other terms you may come across include the following **Gamete**. This refers to sperm or eggs--the building blo **Induced cycle**. Ovulation that is induced by medication **Natural cycle**. Ovulation that occurs without medicatio **Oocytes**. An egg before maturation.

© 2005, Brette McWhorter Sember
from *The Infertility Answer Book*, Sourcebooks, Inc., 2005

Related Content

▶ [A Rose By Any Other Name: How to Work Around the](#)

▶ [Are Your Baby's Bottles Toxic?](#)

▶ [Give Your Child a Headstart to Learning Success](#)

▶ [Confronting Infertility with Hypnosis](#)

▶ [Let's Do the Wave for Our Heavy Hitters: A Grand Salu](#)

▶ [Breastfeeding Twins](#)

▶ [Your Pregnancy: Week 8 for Baby](#)

▶ [Forward Belly Banter to a Friend](#)

▶ [Forward Baby Banter to a Friend](#)

▶ [Peace Like a River: ePregnancy Talks to Keri Russell](#)

Brette McWhorter Sember is an award winning author, freela more than 20 non-fiction books, including [The Infertility Answ](#) [Ultimate Guide for the Full-Figured Expectant Mom](#). Brette's [American Baby](#) and [Child](#) magazines among countless other outside Buffalo, New York. Learn more about Brette by visiti

ePregnancy.com offers expert information, weekly pregnancy updates, product reviews, rec

[Trying to Conceive](#) | [Pregnancy](#) | [Baby](#) | [Parenting](#) | [About U](#)

Visit our other sites: [BabyTV.com](#) | [PoshCravings.com](#) | [PoshTots.com](#) | [Posh](#)

ADVERTISEM

<IMG height=90

Copyright © 2006-2007 ePregnancy.com c/o B: