



Editorial

# COVID-19 pandemic and assisted reproductive technologies



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Globally, after the birth of first in-vitro fertilization baby in 1978, till now around 8 million babies have been born worldwide as a result of IVF and other advanced fertility treatments. On 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 after the declaration of COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic by WHO; prolonged lockdown adversely affected infertility treatments worldwide. Millions of couples have been deprived of getting a chance to become parents due to this pandemic situation. Outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic poses a unique global challenge to infertility centers like counseling of patients for treatment amid COVID-19, rescheduling of IVF treatment, reducing multiple hospital visits and use of medications in pursuit of ramping up patient safety.

COVID-19 infection has emerged as a major public health challenge till date and this health crisis forced the whole world to go under medical emergency resulting in serious implications on socio-economic status and daily lives of mankind. In this time of uncertainty, we have come a long way from complete shutdown of the fertility treatment to restarting the fertility treatment in the presence of coronavirus. The purpose of this special issue was to compile a complete guidebook in the field of assisted reproduction technologies amid COVID-19. Through different manuscripts covering different aspects of assisted reproduction techniques, we have tried to address the different issues of infertility affected by the covid-19 virus and various researchers have suggested modified protocols to be able to help our patients in fulfilling their dream of parenthood. Living in the world where COVID-19 exists and dominates over human race is a harsh reality of the current times. We need to adapt and manage ART treatments with modified guidelines and protocols to battle with the COVID-19 in the new normal along with existence of the COVID-19.

The objective to release the special issue of ART during COVID-19 is to provide an internationally accepted and continually updated all sets of guidelines, general recommendations, modified ART protocols. In the special issue of JHRM, several studies have been published ranging from original manuscripts, short communications, case reports, and review manuscripts that not only included the National and International guidelines to restart the fertility treatments amid COVID-19, clinical and laboratory modified protocols, but also covered the sociological and psychological impact of COVID -19 on the patients due to medical and economical emergencies and restrictions worldwide.

The special issue of COVID-19 and ART covers a better understanding of risks, threats of the COVID-19 pandemic and provides a better perspective to help reproductive medicine professionals to better identify priorities, adaptation to newer protocols for infertile patients impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. This issue will be a useful guide for clinicians and embryologists for dealing with present pandemic and the scientific findings from these experiences will be useful and foresightful to deal with any future pandemics. The most essential lesson learnt from this ongoing pandemic is to keep ourselves prepared all the time to deal with any pandemic or global emergency which poses a threat to existing IVF services.

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