Author's response to reviews

Title: Severe male infertility after failed ICSI treatment- a phenomenological study of men's experiences

Authors:

Marianne Johansson (marianne.ak.johansson@vgregion.se)
Anna-Lena Hellström (anna-lena.hellstrom@fhs.gu.se)
Marie Berg (marie.berg@fhs.gu.se)

Version: 2 Date: 23 January 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
Chief Editor
Reproductive Health

Dear Chief Editor,

We have now revised our manuscript “Severe male infertility after failed ICSI treatment- a phenomenological study of men’s experiences” for publication in Reproductive Health.

We will give response point-by-point to the reviewer’s report. The changes in the manuscript are coloured in yellow.

Reviewer: Tewes Wischman

Minor essential revision:

- In the paragraph Methods, Study population, in the new version is added that not all of the men/ couples remained childless at the time for the study

- In the context: How to understand the last sentence before the discussion section: “half of her and half from me”. This sentence is now presented early in the section Extension of life and starting a family as driving force. The inclusion criteria was that the informants was treated with ART to become biological parents and the quotation describe an important aspect of biological parenthood

- A short discussion of a possible response bias… the discussion is now included in the Discussion paragraph
• The references of Edelman RJ and Connolly KJ (2000) as well as Webb RE and Daniluk JC (1999) are included in the new version.

Reviewer: Heman Tournaye

Minor revision:

• Phenomenological research mostly presents the result in an “anecdotic” way and strengthened the results with quotations. The analyse method is described in the paragraph “Data collection and analysis”. There are some structural differences made in result paragraph. No tool to code, such us Nivivo9 software, were used

Discretionary revisions:

• A section in the discussion paragraph concerning that finally 8 men accepted is included and further research as mentioned may study experiences of both unsuccessful and successful treatment. The experiences after successful treatment may partly be different, the men have reached “the top” i.e. a family with children

• Demyttenare et al (1992) is now included in the discussion paragraph and the coping strategies in both men and women are described in the background and further discussed in the section of Discussion (Jordan and Reverson 1999).

• The study population consists of eight men and we find it not possible to study the subgroups experience concerning origin of obstructive azoospermia. To do this in a larger material would be of great interest to see differences in the experience as well as in coping strategies in the subgroups.

Reviewer: Satoru Kanto

Major Compulsory Revision

• The limitation of the objects in the study is described and made it possible to study the experiences of men with a specific diagnose; this explanation is included in the paper. We also refer to obstructive azoospermia as severe male factor infertility early in the paper as well as in the abstract. Changing
the title to “Obstructive azoospemia after failed ICSI treatment- a phenomenological study” would be possible but so far we prefer to entitle the manuscript as done.

• The prevalence of azoospermia, obstructive azoospermia as well as ICSI treatments is unfortunately not possible to describe. The Västra Götaland Regional Reproductive unit at Sahlgrenska University hospital treat remittent regional patient/ couples as well as in some cases national ones. Not all men and couples with this diagnose go through ART treatment. In Sweden very few reconstructions of pathways are done, (this is now included in the manuscript) approximately 98% is treated with IVF/ICSI and TESA/PESA. 30-40% may be obstructive of those diagnosed with azoospermia.

Minor essential revisions:

1. Corrected

2. Tanrikut C and Goldstein M (2007) is included as well as the fact in the manuscript

3. Corrected as recommended

4. Schlegel PN (1999) is included as well as the fact in the manuscript

5. Biopsy of epididymis is change to aspiration of…

6. Consultation to a reproductive medical specialist in andrology was done before ART treatment and is included in the paragraph of study population

The manuscript has been proofread by an authorised professional.

We look forward hearing from you as a confirmation that you have received our reversed manuscript

Yours sincerely,
Marianne Johansson
The Sahlgrenska Academy at GÖTEBORG UNIVERSITY
Institute of Health and Care Sciences
Visiting/Besöksadress Arvid Wallgrens Backe, Box 457, SE 405 30 Göteborg, Sweden
Tel +46(0)31 773 1000  Fax +46 (0)31 773 6110