AS SEEN IN

## GOOD HOUSEKEEPING WOMAN'S day

**NASHVILLE HEALTHCARE PROFILES** 

## The New Frontier of Fertility Medicine

The **American Embryo Adoption Agency** offers a unique, reliable, and cost-effective path for achieving a healthy pregnancy and live birth.



or couples struggling with the heartbreak of infertility, the journey to achieving a healthy live birth is often long, expensive, and both physically and emotionally exhausting.

While in vitro fertilization (IVF) offers a promising route for some, there's another option that is often faster, less expensive, and offers a higher probability of producing a healthy baby: embryo adoption.

"Many people don't know about embryo adoption, even specialists in the field," says Jaime Vasquez, M.D., a global industry leader and owner of the American Embryo Adoption Agency in Nashville, a clinic that facilitates approximately 100 embryo adoptions each year. "It's one of the greatest demonstrations of love there is for both donor parents and adoptive parents."

## The Gift of Life

The embryo adoption process



Jaime Vasquez, M.D.

begins with an IVF patient who has frozen embryos remaining after they have successfully completed their family and achieved a healthy live birth (or births). Rather than paying for indefinite storage or allowing for termination, couples can choose to preserve life and, without compensation, donate the embryos, as "there's no currency to match the value of human life," says Dr. Vasquez.

"Donor parents are often so grateful for their successful IVF experience that they want to share that success with another couple going through the same fertility challenges," he adds.

Adoptive embryos undergo rigorous genetic testing to ensure the absence of abnormalities that would prohibit a successful pregnancy or live birth. The embryo's DNA qualities are so intimately known that adoptive parents can select the gender, race, and even hair and eye colors of their adoptive child, making the process private and discreet for those who desire for their future children to resemble their own features or racial heritage.

The financial requirements, too, are a significant consideration in comparing embryo adoption with traditional adoption or IVF. Both traditional adoption and each IVF cycle can cost upward of \$50,000, while the entire embryo adoption process is typically less than \$15,000 and requires dramatically less medical intervention for the host mother.

Embryo adoption is particularly helpful for women struggling with low-quality eggs. "The process is more reliable than IVF because the donated embryos have already received the highest level of DNA testing, and unlike traditional adoption, embryo adoption mothers can still experience the miracle of pregnancy, childbirth, and even breastfeeding, if they choose," says Dr. Vasquez.

The American Embryo Adoption Agency does not discriminate based on a patient's marital status, age, weight, or sexual orientation.

"Our job is to serve people," says Dr. Vasquez. "We believe everyone deserves the opportunity to have a family, and it's a wonderful gift for an adoptive parent to offer an unborn child the opportunity of life."



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The **American Embryo Adoption Agency** is a sister organization of **The Center for Reproductive Health**, a comprehensive Nashville-based fertility clinic that has helped couples achieve their dreams of family for over 20 years.