

INTRAPROFESSIONAL FERTILITY PRESERVATION COLLABORATIVE COMMUNICATION VIA WHATSAPP

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Abstract Body

Introduction

Fertility preservation is a relatively new medical subspecialty. Clinicians involved in this field are often required to make prompt and consequential decisions although quality, evidence-based data may be absent or controversial. In addition, each center may have only one or very few professionals experienced in this field. Therefore, intraprofessional communication between physicians from several units may improve clinical decisions.

Design

Retrospective description of WhatsApp professional group activity and survey among group members.

Results

The whatsapp group was established in 2015. In August 2022, the group comprised 33 clinicians practicing fertility preservation from 18 centers in Israel (population 9 M, 25 IVF units). Between January 2019 and August 2022, 43 clinical discussions were initiated by queries presented by group members. Common themes included management of oncofertility cases (30 %), potential gonadotoxic damage of various medical treatments (23 %), fertility preservation in women and girls with premature ovarian insufficiency (16%), and specific issues in ovarian tissue cryopreservation (9%). All but one query received responses immediately (mean time for first response for 95% of queries 7.1 ± 9 minutes) from 5.4 ± 3.2 responders. Mean number of responses per discussion was 14 ± 12 .

An anonymous online survey among group members was conducted during August 2022 (n=31, response rate 94%). In response to the question "did participation in the WhatsApp group assist you in clinical decision making in fertility preservation, 58% of respondents rated 4 or 5 on a 1-5 scale, where 1 was 'not at all' and 5 was 'very much'. Regarding improving knowledge level in fertility preservation, 90% of respondents rated 4 or 5 on a similar 1-5 scale).

Conclusions

Intraprofessional collaborative communication of clinicians via WhatsApp can aid in clinical management of fertility preservation and augment clinician's knowledge.