Ethical issues relating to oocyte donation in the French context

Professor Florence Taboulet
Pharmaceutical Law and Economics of Health
Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse III, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
INSERM UMR 1027 research unit
“Epidemiology and analyses in Public Health: risks, chronic diseases and disability”, France
Contact : florence.taboulet@univ-tlse3.fr

IVF technics are increasing and becoming more complex. In this context using donor oocyte is more and more frequent. However, in France, supply and demand are imbalanced leading to the conduction of the vast majority of these practices outside our borders. To define a public health policy, it is first necessary to deepen the ethical issues risen:

- Those common to all IVF : how to conceive a child, treatment of embryos, risks for the child, in particular with ICSI procedure, ...
- Those specifically arising from the intervention of a donor, as the rupture of the filiation of the child,
- Those specific to oocyte donation, because of the frequency and severity of the risks of ovarian hyperstimulation and the puncture suffered by the donor.

These questions cover many spheres : sanitary safety, appropriateness of care, legal responsibility of the actors, importance of the biological basis of filiation, concept of unavailability of the human body and gametes, risk of selection on non-medical factors and of commodification of gametes, and as a corollary of women, efficiency of these acts fully supported by social health insurance (in France), equity of resource allocation in a national context of expenditure restraint and in a global context characterized by huge gaps between North and South regarding maternal and child health.

We propose to consider some of the issues based on the four principles of biomedical ethics : non-maleficence, beneficence, autonomy and justice, with a view to promote the child's rights and interest.

Biography
Doctorate of Pharmacy, Master’s Degree in Methodology for Health System Analysis, University Degree in Epidemiology, Master’s Degree in Economic Sciences, Master’s Degree in Health Law