

Cryos Study Shows the COVID-19 Virus is Not Detected in Human Semen

During 2020 Cryos International scientists have investigated if semen can contain the COVID-19 virus and thereby pass it on to their sexual partners. Reassuringly, the Cryos study shows that the infection cannot be transmitted through semen.

The study was carried out by the Danish sperm and egg bank Cryos International – USA based in Orlando, Florida USA. The study was approved by the Western Institutional Review Board and examined the semen samples from men whose average age was 32 years old. PCR tests were carried out on the ejaculates of men who had previously been diagnosed with COVID-19 at least one month previously. The average time between the first positive PCR-test for COVID-19 and the analysis of the ejaculate was six days.

Great news for couples going through fertility treatment.

This is an interesting study in relation to COVID-19 in a wider perspective and of course also reassuring for the many people going through fertility treatment all over the world during the pandemic.

“We hoped that there would be no contamination risk connected to semen, so it is reassuring to have a clear indication that this is now verified,” said Peter Reeslev, CEO at Cryos International. “Cryos has in the COVID-19 period closed down for new donors because of the uncertainty of the risk of contamination, but now have opened again based on the results of this new study.”

In the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic fertility treatments were put on pause all over the world as a precaution. “Everyone waited until there could be more information known about this new virus,” said Reeslev. “With our knowledge from this study, we feel people should be free from fear and know that there is zero chance of contamination from the COVID-19 virus in semen being used in connection to fertility treatments.”

The study was done in collaboration with two urologists from Orlando, Dr. Patel and Dr. Parekattil, together with Orlando reproductive endocrinologist, Dr. Trolice, and Scott Michael, Ph.D., Department of Biological Sciences with laboratory technologist Lauren Paul – both from Florida Gulf Coast University, in Fort Meyers. The study will be published in the esteemed Journal of Assisted Reproduction and Genetics.

Danish study also investigates the semen quality

In addition to the concern about whether the COVID-19 virus could be present in semen, the scientists have been interested in learning if the virus has any long-term effects on semen quality. That question might also be answered very soon.

In collaboration with the Danish Hvidovre Hospital and CooperSurgical, Cryos International is participating in a new study that is looking at the semen quality of men who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection.

“Several studies have pointed to an increased risk for decreased semen quality after a COVID-19 diagnoses. But these studies have been met with criticism from experts due to the small sample size and lack of transparency. Therefore, it is important that we investigate if the semen quality is affected by the virus both in the short and long term,” Reeslev commented.

Does the disease course matter?

This new study plans to take the participants in the study and have them provide a series of blood and semen samples, together with several PCR-tests, over a period of 6 months after being diagnosed with COVID-19.

The intention is to discover whether the severity of the disease course can influence semen quality.

It is anticipated that 50 Danish men aged between 18 and 60 years old will be recruited to the study.

The results will be ready and reported by the autumn of 2021.

Professor Allan Pacey from the University of Sheffield (UK) and the chairman of the Cryos External Scientific Advisory Committee said “These are two very important studies which will help us understand the impact of COVID-19 on the male reproductive system. The more we are able to learn about this virus, the better it will be for reproductive medicine so we can help men and women with their plans to start a family in the safest way possible”.

Cryos is an international sperm and egg bank with over 1,000 donors and distributes frozen donor sperm and eggs to more than 100 countries throughout the world and has helped conceive over 65,000 donor children. Cryos offers the world's widest selection of Non-ID release and ID release donors and can also point to the world's highest number of

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