

# lifesCeNES



A publication of California Nurses for Ethical Standards (CNES)

2011 Symposium "Bioethics Unlocked"  
Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>

## Reassessing Our Approach to Women Seeking Abortion

One of Southern California's long-time most dedicated sidewalk counselors recently read an older article (1998) about the way we communicate with women seeking abortion. For her the thought-provoking article opened up to a new way of thinking about how she would approach the women she ministers to outside of the abortuary. Before she describes what has happened in her ministry after she began to change her approach, below are some excerpts from the article that she read:

"It is vitally important that the pro-life movement reframe the issue in terms that will be better received by women. Research suggests that modern American women of childbearing age do not view the abortion issue within the same moral framework as those of us who are pro-life activists . . .

"The attitude of these women toward abortion is quite surprising. First, all of the scores of women involved in the study [*research done on the psychology of pro-choice women*] (none of whom were pro-life activists and all of whom called themselves "pro-choice") agreed that abortion is killing. These women believe that abortion is wrong, an evil, and that God will punish a woman who makes that choice. However, these women feel that God will ultimately forgive the woman, because He is a forgiving God, and because the woman did not intend to get pregnant. Unplanned motherhood, according to the study, represents a threat so great to modern women that it is perceived as equivalent to a death of self. . .

"In fact, while abortion itself is seen as something evil, the woman who has to make that choice is perceived as being courageous, because she has made a difficult, costly, but necessary decision in order to get on with her life. . .

"The terrible miscalculation of young women is that abortion can make them "un-pregnant," that it will restore them to who they were before their crisis. But a woman is never the same once she is pregnant, whether the child is kept, adopted, or killed. Abortion may be a kind of resolution, but it is not the one the woman most deeply longs for, nor will it even preserve her sense

***"It's not the right time, you're not ready. We can help you so you and your baby can live with your decision."***

of self. If those of us in the pro-life movement can help women see this for themselves, we will have done much to disengage our culture from the abortion mentality. . .

"If pro-lifers are willing to reframe the debate in a way that affected women can better understand and appreciate, the movement can regain the moral high ground in the mind of the American public, and begin to reach successfully the very women who most need the pro-life message."

*Excerpted from Abortion: A Failure to Communicate, Swope, Paul, (First Things, April 1998) Paul Swope is Northeast Project Director of the Caring Foundation and President of LifeNet Services, Inc.*

After reading this article, the sidewalk counselor said, "I've revised my approach to these women and the results I've been having are pretty good."

My usual approach to women coming for an abortion had been, "Here is some free literature for you. We can help you so you don't need this abortion" or, something like that. Now, my approach has been, "Being pregnant right now really sucks! It's not the right time, you're not ready. We can help you so you and your baby can live with your decision."

While I'm saying that, I'm handing over the literature I usually give to them. Now most all of them take the literature while I continue to talk with them about their untimely pregnancy. I don't get as much angry feedback from them or their companions as I did before. The change has even been visible to our prayer warriors. They have noticed that the abortion-bound women spend more time in speaking to me. Has anyone changed their mind in the several weeks that I've tried this new approach? Yes, but I really don't know if it is because of the new approach, or it's because the woman is open to something else I have said. However, I feel that they are not feeling as much animosity towards us as they had in the past. Oh, some are still angry and their partners mouthy, but for the most part, I'm getting into longer discussions with the moms.

All we want them to do is to think a second time while they are sitting for their appointments. I will keep tweaking my approach - lives are at stake!



## From The Editor...

Dear Colleagues,  
*(Our beloved President is on a well deserved vacation.)*

The Obama administration has, in a most egregious move, mandated that all private insurances must pay for female sterilizations, and all manner of birth control. (See article p.4) In doing so they have run roughshod over conscience rights for many including religious health care institutions. This is only the beginning if the **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (aka Obama Care)** isn't halted. There is a group of physicians and medical personnel who have decided to tackle this head on and appeal to the public. They are of the opinion that doctors are more trusted than politicians, so people will listen to them. They urge every doctor to educate all their patients about the negative consequences of the law, and how it will adversely affect the care they will receive from their physician when the full effect of the law is felt. Their mission statement says, "We are an organization of concerned physicians committed to the establishment of a health care system that preserves the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship, promotes quality of care, supports affordable access to all Americans, and protects patients' freedom of choice. If you know of any physicians that you think may be interested, please share this information with them. Their web-site is docs4patientcare.org.

You've all received the flyer in the mail by now about our **Bioethics Unlocked Symposium**. I strongly urge you to consider attending. You will hear things that you probably won't find in the medical news and journals. The information is invaluable and presented by top experts in their field. This is information very important for you to know and pass on to anyone you care for or about. In addition to the fact that you can earn 6 CEUs, you will have the opportunity to enjoy a fabulous lunch by Bon Appetit Café in the University's ultra-modern eatery where the choices are endless. If you attended last year, you'll be happy to know that we have changed the room on campus to a lecture type hall. SEE YOU NOV. 5 AT BIOLA UNIVERSITY!

*Germaine Wensley, RN*

### LIFE SCENES

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#### CNES Purpose Statement

California Nurses for Ethical Standards encourages ethics and moral integrity as the foundation of all responsible health care and health education. We promote respect for the life and dignity of every person including the preborn, newborn, physically and/or mentally disabled, aged and dying.

Anna Cody  
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**"We have always predicted that once you start looking at killing as a means to solve problems, then you'll find more and more problems where killing can be the solution."**

**-Dr Karl Gunning**

## Bias Against Pro-life Doctors and Nurses *The Need To Speak Out*

**B**iology Professor Daniel Kuebler, PhD of Steubenville University states in an article published in the *National Catholic Register* (9/8/11) that there is a definite bias against pro-life students applying for medical school. Routinely interviews for admission to medical school will include questions about ethical issues. But in reality, according to Professor Kuebler, many schools include abortion-related questions in order to weed-out pro-life candidates. Although federal law prohibits medical schools receiving federal funding from explicit discrimination against anyone because of their views on abortion, it doesn't prohibit schools from including questions about abortion within questions regarding ethical issues. According to Kuebler, "Unfortunately, this situation creates a loophole big enough to drive a truck through."

Over the last three decades the Catholic Medical Association and other groups have compiled anecdotal evidence that indicate these abortion-related questions are used as a covert litmus test for admission into their school, says the Professor. If the interviewers don't agree with the candidate's answers (because it's evident he or she is pro-life) they look for other reasons to deny admission so that it can't be said an applicant wasn't admitted because of his or her pro-life views. The candidate could be described as "intolerant" or "overly religious" or some other description that could ruin his or her chance of being accepted.

Perhaps the results of this bias are beginning to show up among students in medical schools, or is it coincidence that the percentage of liberals in medical school is found to be considerably higher than self identified liberals in the general U.S. A survey done in 2007 found that 40% of medical students identified themselves as liberals, while only 26% identified themselves as conservatives. In the general population only 30% of 18 – 24-year-olds identify themselves as liberal.

Sadly, the discrimination is following doctors into practice. For instance some pro-life docs have been denied E.R. privileges because they refuse to administer abortifacient drugs. They've been forced

out of jobs when they wouldn't refer for abortions or they counseled for abstinence until marriage.

Then there is the positive story about a young pro-life nurse who took on her pro-abortion university and succeeded. (LifeSiteNews.com 9/9/11) When Anne Marie Dust applied to the Nurse Residency Program at Vanderbilt U. in Tennessee where she had been pre-qualified, she was shocked to discover the university required her to certify in writing that she would participate in abortions. It was then she decided to make a stand for her convictions. The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) came on board to help and she filed a federal complaint to the Department of HHS in Jan. 2011. LifeSiteNews reports that ADF had solid legal ground to stand upon. Federal law prohibits schools that receive Federal grants from denying admission to applicants for training or study because of that applicant's reluctance to assist — or in any way participate — in the performance of abortions, contrary to the applicant's religious beliefs or moral convictions. Vanderbilt receives over \$300 million in federal health tax dollars each year. Within 24 hours of ADF's letters being sent to the feds, the university rescinded the policy requiring students to agree to participate in abortion.



For Anne Marie, taking a stand was not about politics, or religion, but about "addressing what is best for women." "Once I decided though, there was great peace because I knew that I had done what I needed to do, and that the rest was going to depend on God's providence." "It really just comes down to doing what you know needs to be done."

Professor Kuebler says that this discrimination against pro-life people in the medical professions "... makes it imperative that the pro-life community speaks out to Congress and encourages the passing of strongly worded conscience-protection laws for health-care workers." "If this underhanded discrimination of pro-life medical-school applicants and doctors continues to go unchecked and the conscience-protection laws continue to be assaulted, the numbers of committed pro-life doctors will certainly decline." It's also important for individuals and institutions of faith to help those in the medical professions in their efforts to provide life-affirming care. As Professor Kuebler says, "If we do not, the practice of medicine will be altered fundamentally in the coming years, and not for the better."

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discrimination...continues  
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## Obama Administration Mandates Birth Control Insurance Coverage Under “Obamacare”

The pro-woman, pro-life community is reeling with the announcement that the Obama administration's Affordable Care Act (AKA Obamacare) is including new guidelines that will mandate all private insurance providers cover voluntary female surgical sterilization and all birth control drugs and devices approved by the FDA beginning on or after Aug. 2012. This includes hormonal contraceptives such as the “pill,” “morning-after-pill,” implants, patches, hormone infused vaginal rings and the Mirena IUD.

The move to add these birth control methods to the list of “preventive health services” was recommended by a U.S. Institute of Medicine's (IOM) report commissioned by the administration. It has recently been reported by LifeSiteNews.com that the pro-life organization, HLI America, found public records showing the ideological roots of the medical committee from the Institute of Medicine that recommended this mandate. Though the IOM describes itself on its website as “ [provid[ing]] unbiased and authoritative advice to decision makers” the medical committee from IOM that drew up the recommendation is populated by board members of NARAL: Pro-Choice America, Planned Parenthood and major donors to politicians favoring legal abortion. Among the 15-member Committee on Preventive Services for Women, eleven of them demonstrate a more than casual commitment to the furthering of the abortion lobby, according to HLI America. Dr. Anthony Lo Sasso, the lone member of the IOM committee dissenting from the report, concurred that the findings were tainted by advocacy goals. “Troublingly, the process tended to result in a mix of objective and subjective determinations filtered through a lens of advocacy,” he wrote. “An abiding principle in the evaluation of the evidence and the recommendations put forth as a consequence should be transparency and strict objectivity, but the committee failed to demonstrate these principles in the report.”

The new rule supposedly gives Health and Human Services (HHS) the discretion to authorize a “religious” exemption, but it is so narrow that Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Chairman of the Bishop's committee on Pro-Life Activities says Catholic hospitals and health institutions could only be exempted if they were to stop hiring and serving non-Catholics! Cardinal DiNardo further stated, “Could the federal government possibly intend to pressure Catholic institutions to cease providing health care, education and charitable services

to the general public? Health care reform should expand access to basic health care for all, not undermine that goal.” “The Administration's failure to create a meaningful conscience exemption to the preventive services mandate underscores the need for Congress to approve the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act,” the Cardinal said. That bill (H.R. 1179), introduced by Reps. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) and Dan Boren (D-OK), would prevent mandates under the new health reform law from undermining rights of conscience.

By issuing these new guidelines, the government completely disregards studies that have been done on the dangers of hormonal contraceptives. For instance the International Agency for Research on Cancer (a division of WHO) and the American Cancer Society have both identified hormonal contraceptives as cancer risks. And a Mayo Clinic study reveals that any young girl or woman who takes “The Pill” or other form of hormonal contraception for 4 years prior to her first full term pregnancy increases her risk of breast cancer by 52%.

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has shown her complete dismissal of these studies and her disregard for women's health by her statement, “These historic guidelines are based on science and existing literature and will help ensure women get the preventive health benefits they need.” Need it be said who will carry the financial burden of these newly covered services?

### Mandate Prompts A Personal Story

by Julia Croys

When the news that the Obama administration was going to force health insurers to cover birth control without co-pays hit the press, it really upset me. I felt compelled to write my story because I want so very much to let people know, especially women, about the consequences of taking the Pill and the link between the birth control pill and breast cancer.



I am one of a million people who were diagnosed with breast cancer. In 2008, my husband discovered a lump in my right breast. A mammogram did not show very much and the CT scan indicated that I should have a biopsy. There was breast cancer; in fact the lump was five clusters of cancer tumors.

My cancer was estrogen receptor positive, which means that the cancer grows in the presence of estrogen and progesterone. These are found in both birth control pills and hormone therapy medication.

The whole point of why I am writing my story is because of how much I want to let people know, especially women, about the consequences of taking the Pill and the link between the birth control pill and breast cancer. When I was only thirteen years old and first started menstruation, I had problems with bleeding. The Pill was given to me to help regulate my periods. It was not used as a form of birth control. After getting married, I took the Pill for birth control. From being a teenager until menopause, it was approximately forty eight years that I was on the Pill.

I interviewed many women who were taking chemotherapy at the same time I was, and they all told me that their breast cancer was also caused by taking estrogen and progesterone.

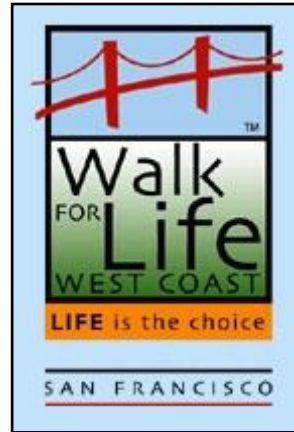
If you read the pamphlet that you receive with your prescription for the Pill, it clearly states that it may cause cancer. When I would go to my general physician with this concern, he dismissed the worry and would promote the Pill, even telling me to take them every day of my life! Oh, how we trust our doctors and believe everything they say.

I have paid the price for taking the Pill. Now, I am taking a pill that is used to eliminate the estrogen in my body to starve my breast cancer. Once you have cancer, there is always that little chance that it will return. I am checked every 3 to 6 months for its return. I truly believe that the Lord heard our prayers and I am confident I am cancer free.

The distribution of free hormonal contraception doesn't end with the health insurers. When Planned Parenthood gets into the schools and promotes their sex education they can give out the birth control and contraceptives without parental consent. Some public schools have also added school-based clinics that can do the same thing. I get upset just thinking about how young girl's bodies are still maturing and the side effects and heartache that may be waiting for them down the road because trusted adults are distributing these things to them. Planned Parenthood continues to use the excuse about unwanted pregnancies to promote their agenda, without thought or care of health considerations and the cost of chemo and radiation treatments that might follow. More tragic is the fact that some women are not always diagnosed with breast cancer in enough time to survive.

I also read where insurers must cover birth control with no co-pays. Now devices and hormone products can be distributed like candy and neither Planned Parenthood or any health insurer will be held responsible for the consequences of the effects on the bodies of women.


Remember, when you hear free or no co-payments that means you and I are paying for it through taxes. Nothing in life is free except for our salvation.



## Mark Your CALENDARS

Walk for Life West Coast will be held Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012 at 12:30 pm in San Francisco. There is a location change this year. The kick-off Rally will be held at the Civic Center Plaza from

12:30- 1:30pm. The walk will start there, process down Market St. and end at the Justin Herman Plaza at the Embarcadero. The route is approximately 1.8 miles.



**IPYC**

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**International Pro Life Youth Conference (IPYC)**  
**Los Angeles, California**  
**November 11-13, 2011**

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This international event will be hosted by Students for Life of America, Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust (US), and Ireland's Youth Defence (that's how they spell it across the big pond.)

Young people everywhere are invited to come and hear internationally recognized pro-life speakers. This conference will network young people into a global movement for life.

"Abortion is a human rights issue," states Kristina Garza, Director of Campus Outreach for Survivors. "We must come together as young people and throw off the culture of death the older generation embraced. **This generation is pro-life.**"

**4 LIFE**



## NEWS CAPSULES



### IVF Babies More at Risk

In an address to the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society, IVF geneticist Dr. Rosanna Weksberg said there is a need to partner with fertility clinics to study a possible link between fertility treatment and certain rare genetic disorders. (LifeSiteNews.com) The doctor said that in her genetics clinic, she is already seeing a significant increase in risk of IVF children with Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome and Angelman Syndrome. There is also evidence of an increase in the likelihood of a low weight delivery and conflicting research suggesting an increased risk of autism, she added. So far she hasn't been able to find any clinic willing to work with her and Dr. Weksberg describes this as "very telling."

### Chinese Horror Story

A South Korean TV network is reporting that Chinese pharmaceutical companies are grinding up baby bodies from abortions or still births to place in capsules which are then sold as "stamina" pills. (Baptist Press, Washington 8/16/11) Another newspaper, The Global Times, reports that an undercover TV team from the former Seoul Broadcasting Station (SBS) discovered and purchased some pills, sent them to a lab where DNA tests showed the contents were 99.7% human. China's Ministry of Health said it has launched an investigation into SBS' claims because ". . . China has strict regulation on disposing of the remains of infants, fetuses and placentas." There is an alleged business network between China and S. Korea to satisfy the demand for the "pills." The S. Korean Government is aware of the baby capsule reports and is investigating according to a Korean embassy official who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

### New Breakthrough in PVS Patients

Patients thought to be in a "persistent vegetative state" may someday be able to "talk" and steer a wheelchair according to one of Britain's top neuroscientists. Dr. Adrian Owen at Cambridge U. has proven that some patients who show no outward signs of awareness can comprehend what people are saying. It's been demonstrated that using an fMRI brain scanner, one patient was able to give yes/no responses to simple questions. It's now believed that it won't be long before they can communicate using a voice synthesizer and even move around in a motorized wheelchair. Dr Owen's findings suggest that around one in five PVS patients may be able to communicate and will certainly raise questions about when doctors should switch off life-support systems.

All attempts to legalize voluntary euthanasia protect doctors from prosecution while *endangering the lives of their patients.*

### Many Texan P.P. "Clinics" Close

Texas Governor Rick Perry signed a bill into law that stripped the funding from the organization and also prohibits the state government from contracting with any organization. Reeling from funding cuts, Planned Parenthood (P.P.) is closing clinics and merging affiliates throughout the state, Texas Right to Life reports. Funds stripped from family planning organizations have been re-allocated to pregnancy centers, among other programs, and according to the state's Alternative to Abortion Services program, that amounts to \$8.3 million.

### Parents Beware

A survey of Ob/Gyns conducted by researchers at Columbia U. and the U. of Chicago says 94% would provide contraceptives to a minor without notifying her parents. 47% said they would encourage the minor to inform her parents, and only 54% said they would encourage the minor to remain abstinent until she is older. The new HHS mandatory contraception coverage will make it even easier for teens to access these harmful drugs without parental involvement, says the non-profit Christus Medicus Foundation. (LifeSiteNews 8/7/11)

### Arizona Law Halts P.P. Abortions and May Affect Kansas Law

An Arizona Appellate court ruling has now allowed a 2009 safety standards law to go into effect. The law also requires that licensed physicians provide women with in-person consultations at least 24 hours before their procedure and that minors obtain parental consent. This has caused P.P. of Arizona to stop abortions at 7 of their sites where non-physicians were doing medical abortions by administering abortion pills.

Kansas passed a law making abortion clinics operate at the same health standards as other medical clinics, but it is being challenged by 2 abortion clinics. The judge in the case who halted the law from taking effect even refused to let the American Assoc. Of Pro-life Ob/Gyns testify on behalf of rescinding the stop order. In light of the Arizona ruling, the abortionists' challenge may be less likely to succeed.

### Group Wants to Normalize Pedophilia

(LifeSiteNews.com) Last August, researchers from several prominent U.S. universities participated in a Baltimore conference reportedly aimed at normalizing pedophilia. B4U-ACT, a group of pro-pedophile activists and mental health professionals, were behind the conference. The event was to examine ways in which "minor-attracted persons" can be involved in a revision of the American Psychological Association (APA) classification of pedophilia. On their website, B4U-ACT classifies pedophilia as simply another sexual orientation and decries the "stigma" attached to pedophilia.



# NEWS CAPSULES



## Hormonal Contraception Alters Memory

Memory changes occur when women use contraceptives like birth control pills, according to a new UC Irvine study. Since there are such few studies examining the cognitive effects of a pill that more than 100 million women use worldwide, one of the researchers call the study exciting. Researcher Shawn Nielsen emphasized that the meds don't damage memory, but alter it. "It's a change in the type of information they remember, not a deficit," she said. A woman's ability to remember the gist of an emotional event improves, compared to women not on the hormones, who retain details better. The researchers said the findings could help lead to fuller answers about why women experience post traumatic stress syndrome more frequently than men.

## Injectable Hormones Found to Increase Risk of HIV

In eastern and southern African countries, the most used contraceptive is the hormone shot which is only given every three months. It is now being discovered that it appears to double the risk that users will become infected with HIV. Isobel Coleman, director of the women and foreign policy program at the Council on Foreign Relations said, "If it is now proven that these contraceptions are helping spread the AIDS epidemic, we have a major health crisis on our hands." The research study was published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, and has prompted the World Health Organization to meet in January to consider if the evidence is strong enough to advise women that the method may increase their risk of getting or transmitting HIV.

## Extra Dangerous to Have An Abortion in NM!

Operation Rescue reports that another woman has suffered complications from a botched abortion in Albuquerque, N.M. This latest 911 call relates that a 31 – yr. –old woman was bleeding uncontrollably after her abortion and the clinic worker was requesting an ambulance to transport her to the hospital. This is the eleventh abortion-related medical emergency at Southwestern Women's Options in less than two years, and the fourteenth in the Albuquerque area in the same time period. Project Defending Life members had a meeting with Gov. Susana Martinez to discuss the dangerous conditions that are the cause of so many life-threatening abortion complications in the state. "It is obvious that Albuquerque abortion clinics are ill-equipped to handle complications that occur on a regular basis and are using paramedics as a back-up plan for when things go terribly wrong," said Operation Rescue President Troy Newman.

## Black & Beautiful Abortion Awareness Campaign

Issues4Life Foundation and The Radiance Foundation launched an abortion awareness campaign titled Black & Beautiful, TooManyAborted.com, complete with billboards placed throughout Oakland, CA. The Black American-led initiative exposes Planned Parenthood's racist and eugenic-based history and unaltered course. The CDC reports that the Black abortion rate is over 3 times that of the majority population -- differences which cannot be explained by "health care disparities." "The impact of abortion in the Black Community is the Darfur of America," says Rev. Walter B. Hoye II, President of the Issues4Life Foundation, citing the 15 million Black American lives that have been aborted since 1973.



## Dutch GPs Feel Pressure to Euthanize

The DutchNews.nl reports that nearly 1/2 of the GPs in the Netherlands have felt pressured by relatives to kill a patient. A survey of 800 family docs in the Netherlands concluded that nearly 20% of all euthanasia deaths are not reported. The most recent study was done for a TV program. Other findings: 20% are willing to euthanize a patient who is "tired of life." In the past five years almost 70% of them said they had actually carried out euthanasia on a patient, but 1/3 refused the request. Even though the Dutch claim to have a strict euthanasia law, every year there are about 550 deaths without explicit request or consent and nearly 20% of all euthanasia deaths are not reported.

## Euthanasia Keeps Rearing Its Ugly Head

Last year assisted suicide activists in Vermont tried to get a bill passed ala Oregon's assisted suicide law. It didn't even make it out of committee, but since Vermont has a two year legislative session, they are going to push this bill even harder when session resumes. Their governor is on their side so if a bill gets through Congress, he will be sure and sign it.

Not to be outdone, doctor-prescribed suicide advocates in Massachusetts submitted the paper work for a ballot initiative. That state's rules are a little different. If enough signatures are collected, the measure first goes before the legislature. The legislature can pass the proposal, but if it doesn't do anything, the pro-assisted suicide advocates can gather some more signatures and place the measure on the ballot for voters to decide Nov. 2012.

## Surrogates Suffer

Surrogate mothers often find the experience deeply distressing. Canadian researchers presented their finding at the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society conference. The women often suffer separation anxiety and depression. They also often become angry when they have limited contact with the parent-to-be. These significant emotional issues have been occurring in spite of pre-treatment counseling.

# CNES

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