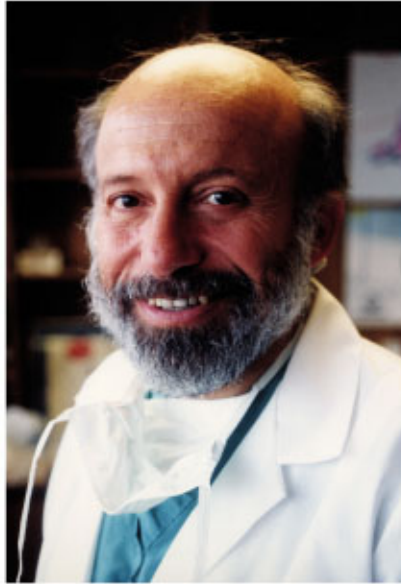


St. Louis Specialist Pushes the Leading Edge for Treatment of Infertility



Sherman J. Silber, M.D.

St. Louis is home to one of the leading centers in the world for modern infertility treatment. Over the last 25 years, Sherman J. Silber, M.D., director of the Infertility Center of St. Louis, has pioneered most of the “miracle” infertility treatments now accepted around the world.

Vasectomy and Tubal Ligation Reversal:

Dr. Silber was the first in the U.S. to perform microsurgical tubal ligation reversal and the first in the world to perform microsurgical vasectomy reversal. His success rate is over 90 percent. The quality of the microsurgical technique is the major determinant of successful return of fertility.

In men it requires more than just delicately reconnecting the vas deferens. Secondary microscopic “blowouts” in the much more delicate tubule (called the “epididymis”) that conveys sperm from the testis to the vas deferens must also be repaired in most cases for the man to become fertile. Dr. Silber re-operates on many men from around the world who have had unsuccessful vasectomy reversals elsewhere, with just as high a success as in simpler cases (90 percent). He has performed over 10,000 such procedures, dwarfing all other centers in the world.

In-Vitro Fertilization:

In the early 1990s, Dr. Silber and his colleagues in Brussels were the original developers of the “ICSI” procedure with sperm retrieval. This approach is famous for helping men with such low sperm counts that they previously had no hope of having their own child. Injecting the husband’s sperm directly into the woman’s egg with the ICSI procedure results in normal pregnancy rates even for the most severely infertile men.

Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis of Embryos:

The Infertility Center of St. Louis was among the first to offer pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) to reduce the risks to IVF couples (e.g., with severe male factor and in older women) of having an abnormal baby. This procedure reduces the risk of miscarriage and multiple pregnancies, and provides screening of the embryo for possible birth defects such as cystic fibrosis and Down’s syndrome. It is of great benefit for older women, women with recurrent miscarriages, and any couple at risk for having an abnormal child.

Egg Donation:

In some cases of female infertility, the woman has run out of viable eggs. In 1988, Dr. Silber’s team was the first in the region to perform successful IVF with donor eggs. The Infertility Center of St. Louis has been praised for adhering to the strictest medical and ethical standards.

Genetics of Infertility:

Now, after 10 years of research into the genetics of infertility, pioneered by Dr. Silber’s team and his colleagues at M.I.T., the actual errors in his patients’ DNA that cause the infertility are being elucidated, opening the door to greater understanding of their condition and an eventual genetic cure.

Infertility Information:

For information about any of this research or treatment, you may call 314-576-1400, or go to www.infertile.com.



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