



## Glossary of Terms: Egg Donation

**Assisted Reproductive Technology\*:** originally, a range of techniques for manipulating oocytes and sperm to overcome infertility; encompasses drug treatments to stimulate ovulation, surgical methods for removing oocytes (laparoscopy and ultrasound-guided transvaginal aspiration) and for implanting embryos (zygote intrafallopian transfer or ZIFT), in vitro and in vivo fertilization (artificial insemination and gamete intrafallopian transfer or GIFT), ex utero and in utero fetal surgery, and laboratory regimes for freezing and screening sperm and embryos as well as micromanipulating and cloning embryos as well as

**Blastocyst:** the modified blastula (an early metazoan embryo typically having the form of a hollow fluid-filled rounded cavity bounded by a single layer of cells) of a placental mammal.

**Embryo:** the developing human individual from the time of implantation to the end of the eighth week after conception—compare *fetus*.

**Gamete:** a mature male or female germ cell usually possessing a haploid chromosome set and capable of initiating formation of a new diploid individual by fusion with a gamete of the opposite sex—called also sex cell.

**In vitro fertilization:** fertilization of an egg in a laboratory dish or test tube; *specifically:* mixture usually in a laboratory dish of sperm with eggs which have been obtained from an ovary that is followed by introduction of one or more of the resulting fertilized eggs into a female's uterus—abbreviation *IVF*.

**Oocyte\*:** Female gamete or sex cell.

**Ovarian cyst\*:** a cystic tumor of the ovary, either nonneoplastic (follicle, lutein, germinal inclusion, or endometrial) or neoplastic; usually restricted to benign cysts, mucinous serous cystadenoma, or dermoid cysts.

**Ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome\*:** iatrogenic development of ovarian hyperstimulation that occurs when the luteotropic effects of human chorionic gonadotropin are exaggerated in a cycle in which ovarian stimulation has been done as a component of infertility treatment. The human chorionic gonadotropin is administered exogenously to trigger ovulation after gonadotropin stimulation. It is present endogenously after implantation. Syndrome includes, to varying degrees,



abdominal distention, potentially massive ovarian enlargement, and third spacing of vascular volume. It can range from moderate discomfort to life-threatening ovarian enlargement and fluid shifts.

**Premature Menopause\***: failure of cyclic ovarian function before age 40.

**Superovulation**: ovulation marked by the production of more than the normal number of mature eggs at one time (infertility treatment including the use of gonadotropins to induce *superovulation*).

**Torsion\***: A twisting or rotation of a part on its long axis or on its mesentery; often associated with compromise of the blood supply.

**Zygote**: a cell formed by the union of two gametes; broadly: the developing individual produced from such a cell.

Gathered from the National Institute of Health's **Medline Plus**, <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mplusdictionary.html> and **medLexicon International**, <http://www.medilexicon.com/medicaldictionary.php?t=88645> (marked with an \*).