



RABBI GIDEON

Machon Puah for Fertility and
Gynecology in Accordance with Halacha

WEITZMAN

Lights, Cameras, Action?

Last time we discussed the importance of PUAH's halachic supervision and how it is essential to enable religious Jewish couples to access fertility treatment. PUAH's supervision bolsters the couple's confidence that there will be no mistake during the entire process, and they become calmer patients, who are better patients with a higher success rate.

However, as we saw last time, during the Covid 19 pandemic, the laboratories initially expressed concern that the presence of the supervisors in the lab potentially increased the chances of infection. PUAH was able to adapt our own guidelines to ensure that the supervisors could continue to work following the highest halachic standards, as always, without compromising the success rates, or adversely affecting the integrity of the fertility procedure.

At that time, it was suggested that a potential solution was using cameras strategically located throughout the fertility laboratory.

The supervisor could be located outside of the clinic, for that matter, she could still be at home, and would be able to clearly observe the entire process.

While this solution was not eventually employed, since it was deemed unnecessary, it did give rise to a certain amount of discussion as to whether this could be considered a sufficient level of observation in halachic terms.

This discussion has resurfaced recently since one of the major fertility facilities in Israel redesigned their entire laboratory in order to create a much more sterile environment. This has been done in many centers worldwide and has improved their operation and eventual success rates.

The air is carefully controlled and the embryologists have to wear special clothing, they cannot use perfume or makeup and must be prepared very scrupulously before they can enter the lab. Even the doctors are not granted access to the laboratory out of concern for contamination.

These new measures, of course, raise the question of supervision and its implementation. It is not feasible for the supervisor to be present in the lab and maintain the required elevated levels of sanitation for the entire time that she needs to supervise.

One practical suggestion was that the clinic set up a comprehensive system of high-definition cameras. The supervisor can be located in a nearby room and she can closely monitor the procedures without having to be physically present.

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This raises a myriad number of halachic questions; can supervision be relied on if the supervisor did not see with her own eyes? Is there a halachic difference between watching a live broadcast as opposed to seeing a video playback post facto? How does this compare with other types of supervision, such as food preparation, where cameras have been used?

More on this next time. ■



Be'er Tziporah a"h - Bottled Water Gemach



Walking down King George St. in Jerusalem and want a cold bottle of water?
Come help yourself to a bottle at
52 King George.

In loving memory of Yoni's wife
Tziporah a"h, a true Eishes Chayil, always full of chessed, kindness and laughter, and brought life and strength to so many people, that she touched! She was like Aron, who loved peace and pursued peace.




Yoni thanks Hashem for having the opportunity of having Tziporah in his life, to learn of her caring, patience and happiness, to overcome her challenges. May Tziporah's Neshama be a light onto the world, in a time of darkness, and may her Neshama shine to Gan Eden. Yoni misses Tziporah with tears in his eyes, as Hashem gave him a gift, a crown jewel, now he returns her to Hashem.

With thanks and Toda. Love, Yoni

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050-570-1067 | menpmp@gmail.com

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