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Male Infertility: Current Knowledge and Future Perspectives

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Message from the Collection Editors

Infertility is an important and growing health problem affecting around 15% of couples worldwide. Male infertility can be related to a variety of congenital or acquired, well-defined causes that lead to a decline in semen quality, manifesting as decreased sperm counts, and abnormal sperm quality and function due to the impairment of spermatogenesis in the gonads. The recent advances in the understanding of male infertility point out the involvement of environmental and lifestyle factors as well as advanced paternal age as the main etiological factors. In this context, the rate of the observed changes in sperm quality suggests that oxidative stress and epigenetic modifications may be involved in the etiology of nuclear chromatin integrity disorders of ejaculated sperm. Modern andrology needs new diagnostic options to complement well-established endocrine, genetic, imaging and microbial diagnosis that can aid in understanding the underlying physiopathology of impaired fertility in men.

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