

Ethical Issues in Reproductive Medicine

Ethical Issues in Reproductive Medicine

1. Introduction

- Reproductive medicine addresses fertility, contraception, and assisted reproduction, raising complex ethical questions.
- It often involves competing interests of patients, donors, and potential offspring.

2. Assisted Reproductive Technologies

- **IVF:** in vitro fertilization raises questions about embryo status and disposal.
- Surrogacy involves consent, compensation, and parental rights concerns.
- Gamete and embryo donation raise anonymity and identity issues.

3. Core Ethical Principles

- **Autonomy:** respecting patients' reproductive choices and informed consent.
- **Beneficence and non-maleficence:** balancing potential benefits against risks to mother and child.
- Justice concerns equitable access to costly fertility treatments.

4. Contested Areas

- Embryo selection, preimplantation genetic testing, and concerns about designer traits.
- Prenatal testing and decisions surrounding pregnancy termination.

5. Legal and Cultural Context

- Laws vary widely across jurisdictions on surrogacy, donation, and embryo rights.
- Religious and cultural beliefs strongly influence acceptable practices and counseling.