



**RABBI GIDEON**

**Machon Puah for Fertility and  
Gynecology in Accordance with Halacha**

**WEITZMAN**

# Future Fertility

Last time we presented the question as to whether a couple who get married in their mid-thirties should try to get pregnant immediately or should undergo fertility treatment in order to freeze embryos and extend their fertility.

On the one hand, it could be claimed that this is a distasteful suggestion, and should be condemned. If we believe, as religious Jews, that God has a hand in history and has empowered human beings to invent and develop fertility treatment, we can ask what is His desire? Is the Divine purpose of fertility treatment to enable couples facing fertility challenges to have children. These difficult procedures do not exist in order to allow anyone to have as many children as they desire.

But on the other hand, who are we to make such a decision? If God did allow fertility treatment to exist then why can they not be accessed by everyone who desires to use them? The treatments are expensive and uncomfortable, and if a couple are willing to undergo these difficult procedures in order to have more children, can we, or even society, prevent them from doing so? Society can choose not to pay for such treatments, but can society choose to disallow a couple to pay for and undergo

their own treatment?

On one hand, the couple's desire to have more children is perfectly understandable, and they are willing to go to great lengths to fulfill their yearning and not limit the size of their family. On the other hand, in order to freeze embryos the couple will have to push off having children, and opt for undergoing in-vitro fertilization a sufficient number of times to produce the required number of embryos. The best method of producing a pregnancy for most people in their mid-thirties would be trying to get pregnant naturally, without fertility treatment. The couple's desire to freeze embryos for later children may be a detrimental factor in achieving a pregnancy at all.

For most couples starting to have a family at that age they will be able to have children, and such couples will have an average of three children. The pursuit of fertility treatment, in such a case, attempts to ensure that there will be a fourth and fifth child. Should a couple compromise their chances of getting pregnant now in order to increase the chances of having a larger family later?

More on this next time. ■

The Puah Institute is based in Jerusalem and helps couples from all over the world who are experiencing fertility problems. Offices in Jerusalem, New York, Los Angeles & Paris. Contact (Isr) 02-651-5050 (US) 718-336-0603 [www.puahonline.org](http://www.puahonline.org)