



## RABBI GIDEON WEITZMAN

Machon Puah for Fertility and  
Gynecology in Accordance with Halacha

### An Apology

In the last couple of articles, we started to discuss the implications of the spread of fertility treatment and the proliferation of babies conceived through in-vitro fertilization. This has impacted the importance placed on fertility treatment in the medical community, and has given rise to a number of far-reaching halachic conclusions.

In these articles I raised the question of the complete shift in Rabbinic thinking in the entire approach to fertility treatment. Originally IVF was viewed by both the medical and the halachic community as something unusual and scarce. In the medical field this was seen in the allocation of hospital resources and the exposure of medical students to this discipline, among others.

This reality also had expressions among the Poskim, who asked whether this new treatment fitted into the rubric of medical treatment, and could be performed on Shabbat, for example, as well as other questions.

I received a couple of complaints from readers who took offense to the way that I raised the question of fulfilling the mitzvah in an unusual way. They found it to be insensitive and inappropriate for the pages of Torah Tidbits.

As I have already written to the readers who turned to me or the editor with their complaints, I apologize for inadvertently causing any harm or anguish. This was not my intention at all, on the contrary, I wanted to show how fertility treatment has become the norm and is almost universally accepted and encouraged. But, in trying to present this, it may have given a wrong impression and offended people.

This impresses upon me how important it is to be careful and extremely vigilant in what we say, when we say it and how we say it. This is true in all circumstances, and even more so, when dealing with the exceedingly delicate subject of fertility treatment. This pierces the most intimate details of people's lives and essence and we need to be so particular and cautious when discussing these issues.

I still think that it is important to raise the issues and increase public awareness to the intricacies and complexities of fertility treatment, including the required sensitivity. I believe that the articles that I have written for many years here in Torah Tidbits have tried to do this, and when it is necessary, I am willing to stand corrected and try to improve.

Again, I am sorry and appreciate all readers' comments.

We will continue next time. ■

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