RABBI GIDEON WEITZMAN

Machon Puah for Fertility and Gynecology in Accordance with Halacha

Pioneering Hope

Last time we spoke about the history and current practice of uterine transplants.

In Houston, a remarkable group of physicians and researchers is quietly reshaping the future of fertility medicine. At Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital, their work on uterine transplantation is helping turn what was once science fiction into real possibility.

At the heart of this effort are two remarkable physicians; Dr. Giuliano Testa and Dr. Liza Johannesson, whose pioneering spirit has driven the field forward. Together with multidisciplinary teams of surgeons, fertility specialists, and researchers, they are pushing the boundaries of what medicine can achieve.

Their work is not simply about performing surgeries, it is about solving an intricate medical puzzle. The uterus is one of the most complex organs to transplant, requiring delicate connections of tiny blood vessels and careful coordination with fertility treatments like IVF. The Houston team has played a critical role in refining these techniques, improving success rates, and making the procedure safer for patients.

Closely connected with their clinical partners at Baylor University Medical Center, this Texas-based program has become one of the most successful uterine transplant efforts in the world. It was here that some of the first successful births in the United States took place, marking a turning point in reproductive medicine.

What sets the Houston group apart is its spirit of innovation. These physicians are not content with repeating what has already been done, they are constantly improving. They study how to reduce the risk of organ rejection, how to better support pregnancies in transplanted uteruses, and how to make the entire process more accessible in the future. Each case adds to a growing body of knowledge that benefits patients worldwide.

But beyond the science, there is a deeply human mission. For women born without a uterus or who have lost it, this work offers something that did not exist just a few years ago: the chance to carry a child themselves. That possibility is what fuels the dedication of the Houston team.

Of course, challenges remain. The procedure is still complex, expensive, and limited to a small number of centers. Yet the progress made in Houston shows what is possible when expertise, determination, and compassion come together.

In many ways, this team embodies the pioneering spirit, venturing into uncharted territory, not for discovery alone, but to transform lives.

It was with this spirit that Dr. Testa and Dr. Johannesson came to israel and came to PUAH.

More on this next time. ■