

On behalf of Dr. Ashok Agarwal from the Cleveland Clinic, you are being asked to participate in a research survey that may help to understand the use of antioxidants for the treatment of male infertility. Your participation is voluntary.

In the last year, some scientific articles in reputed journals have painted a conflicting picture about the efficacy and utility of antioxidants (nutraceuticals) in the treatment of male infertility. The latest reports showing the negative effect of antioxidants was partly related to poor patient selection criteria. A simple screening step of evaluating study participants for Male Oxidative Stress Infertility (MOSI) was ignored as part of their inclusion criteria. This omission casts serious doubt on these findings. The testing for MOSI could have been easily done by using a simple MiOXSYS device to identify if the oxidative stress is indeed an underlying cause of their subfertility/poor fertility, and only then subjecting them to antioxidant supplementation. Due to the diametrically opposite findings and conclusions from these negative articles, there is an urgent need to provide a balanced picture to the worldwide community of reproductive professionals involved in the care of patients with male infertility. Especially those who are actively considering antioxidant supplement therapy for some of their patients.

You are being contacted to participate in this research survey because you are involved in the treatment of male infertility conditions. Your email ID was extracted from the publicly available research publications cited in PubMed.

This research survey is composed of 5 sections [demographic data, clinical practice, oxidative stress testing, antioxidant therapy, and optional contact details]. It includes 16 questions regarding the use of antioxidants in treatment of male infertility and is expected to take about 10-15 minutes to complete. The results of this survey will be analyzed further to understand clinicians' practice patterns for the use of antioxidants for patients with male infertility.

There is a small potential risk of loss of confidentiality if you provide the optional contact information, otherwise, the survey is anonymous. The survey is being conducted using SELECTSURVEY. All data will be stored in a secure drive. Data will only be accessible to the study team.

Some of the questions we will ask you as part of this study may make you feel uncomfortable. You may refuse to answer any of the questions and you may stop your participation in this study at any time.

There is no personal benefit from your participation in the survey. Knowledge gained from the survey may benefit future patients with male infertility.

If you choose not to respond, we will not contact you again. If you have any questions about the survey please contact, study coordinator Dr. Manesh Kumar Panner Selvam (pannerm@ccf.org) or at 216-414-9207. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant you may contact the Cleveland Clinic Institutional Review Board at 216-444-2924 or 1-800-223-2273 ext. 42924.

By completing the survey, you are providing your consent to participate in our research study.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Ashok Agarwal

Dr. Manesh Kumar Panner Selvam