

Assisted reproduction from the perspective of cross-border reproductive care

Abstract

The importance of assisted reproduction and associated cross-border reproductive care, which is often due to limited availability or inappropriate ART-related legislation, is significantly increasing in the context of delaying parenthood to a higher age. Therefore, the aim of the submitted work is to compare the Czech Republic as one of the target countries for cross-border reproductive care with selected European countries, chosen based on the highest proportion of female patients travelling to the Czech Republic for fertility treatment. Thus, the result is a comparative analysis of Czechia, France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom in terms of the usage and availability of ART and public attitudes towards ART. The work also seeks to answer why Czechia is an attractive target for cross-border reproductive care and how its increased intensity is manifested in Czechia. Data is adapted from ESHRE's European IVF Monitoring, and data from the latest wave of European Value Study from 2017 is then used to analyse public attitudes towards ART. The comparative analysis mainly works with graphic elements and descriptive statistics. Binary logistic regression is used to analyse the public attitudes. The research results point to the relatively liberal legislation of the Czech Republic, the advanced level of health care, the safety of individual procedures, and above all, the low price of performing assisted reproduction compared to other states. Many foreign patients also consider the Czech Republic to be a suitable source of donated oocytes.

Key words: assisted reproduction, cross-border reproductive care, usage of ART, availability of ART, public attitudes towards ART, Europe