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# 5 KEYS TO PARTNERING WITH A REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGIST

## I. INTRODUCTION

- Experience as an obstetrician/gynecologist and subspecialty in reproductive endocrinology/infertility
- Integration of acupuncture and clinical herbalism into my “western medicine” practice
- Challenges beginning the process even as an “insider” working with colleagues

## II. RECOGNIZE THE CHALLENGE

- Be patient
- We’re on THEIR turf
- Acupuncturists as “fertility” practitioners = threat
- Fear of the “unknown”
- Lack of comprehension of clinical herbalism
- Lead with listening

## III. “PLAY THE GAME”

- Use the “shared care of patient” angle
- Demonstrate interest in a bilateral formal partnership

## IV. KNOW THE LINGO

- Know the basics of Western Medicine/Reproductive Endocrinology/Infertility
- IUI, CC, CC+ IUI, FSH, FSH+IUI, IVF, OHSS
- Preparations (FSH/LH, FSH, AND LH only)

- Be able to understand and converse with an REI specialist in THEIR language
- Subfertility (6 months) vs. Infertility (1 year)
- Laboratory Tests: prolactin/TSH, DOR: assessment of ovarian reserve (D3 FSH, estradiol, and CCCT), quantity (CD3 FSH) vs. quality (age) of oocytes
- Semen analysis
- HSG

#### V. FOCUS ON THE PATIENTS WHO DO NOT QUALIFY FOR ART

- **This is the way the way in!**
- Focus on how acupuncture can help using terminology familiar to western medicine physicians

#### VI. STAY READY AND MAINTAIN CONTACT

- Know the basics of TCM and recognize patterns
- Follow up with any and all of the patients that are in “shared care”
- Maintain regular contact with previously established partners and potential partners that have yet to convert to partners

#### VII. CONCLUSION

- Questions
- Comments
- Suggestions for future webinars