Sperm donation companies
Posted by JR - 2011/03/12 05:03
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The film discussed a number of issues that the donors, the children and their families have experienced, including: feeling unsettled about not knowing anything about their father, being angry and upset about being lied to by their family, the feeling that something is missing, worrying about their being a lack of connection, concerns from donors that they will not live up to their children's 'dream picture' or expectations, parents not knowing when/how to tell their children and never being sure that the person they are dating is not related to them!!

Does the social and moral responsibility of the cryobanks extend further then just creating donor profile and the collection and delivery of sperm? Should they do more to support the people involved and address some of the difficulties donors and their children may experience, perhaps by offering things like counselling services?

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Re:Sperm donation companies
Posted by Dr Allan Pacey - 2011/03/17 03:32
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I think the answer to this depends on the way healthcare is organised. The sperm bank is the recruiter or the donors and the provider of the sperm. In most countries I am aware of the sperm is normally shipped to a doctor or a clinic where the insemination is performed. This means that the doctor or the clinical team providing treatment can make sure that the patient is properly counselled and given support. What seems to have happened in the film, is that the sperm was shipped directly to the patients and they performed 'home insemination'. Outside the US I don't think this is terribly common (although I may be wrong) and therefore there might be a good argument for the sperm bank to offer counselling services. However, given the distances involved, this may be impractical. Perhaps the sperm bank should withhold the shipment of sperm until the recipient can demonstrate that they have received counselling locally?

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