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"Can We Resolve the Controversy with Regards to Embryo Transfer of Blastocysts Diagnosed as Mosaic Subsequent to PGT-A - A Short Communication"

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Abstract

To evaluate how the characteristics of mosaicism that are observed at the time of preimplantation genetic testing for aneuploidy (PGT-A), are correlated with the results with the aim of generation of a ranking system of mosaic embryos with the idea of embryos transfer (ET), was conducted by Vioti et al., in view of the existent controversies with regards to both diagnosis as well as management of mosaicism. These controversies pointed that in case of suboptimal biopsies, false mosaic results, along with technical background noise in view of artefacts during amplification or sequencing might not be distinguishable from the outcomes that agree with mosaicism. Moreover, cell cycle phase might impact as well as simulating mosaic segmental aberrations, despite these having been reduced to minimal with the utilization of current blastocysts stage methodology use. On evaluation of 5561 euploid blastocysts as well as 1000 mosaic blastocysts their observation was that the euploid group resulting in significantly greater Implantation along with ongoing pregnancy/ birth rates (OP /B), in contrast to the combined mosaic group that influenced, just whole chromosomes. On combination of mosaic level, type in addition to embryos morphology demonstrated the order of subcategories with regards to the chances of positive results. Though their conclusions were that the evaluation of the compiled data depicted the mosaicism as per PGT-A, the results were influenced in a statistically significant way, that aided them to generate a proof dependent scheme with regards to priority for Clinical utilization of mosaic embryos. Nevertheless, with all the flaws pointed by Surrey still more prospective trials are needed for resolution of the issue of use or not of mosaic embryos.

Keywords: ***Mosaicism; PGT-A; Safety; Implantation; Chromosomes; OP /B***

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1. Background

Before an attempt is done for preimplantation genetic testing for aneuploidy (PGT-A), certain definitions with regards to embryos, that need clarification are i) euploid-if all cell have existent in them the classical setoff 46 chromosomes they are classified as euploid ii) aneuploid- if all cells of embryos possess a specific chromosomal aberration, the embryo is classified as aneuploid like segmental or whole chromosomal aneuploidy iii) mosaic - when 2 or ≥ 2 cell populations with various chromosomal content are existent simultaneously. This event starts from the post zygotic errors of mitosis. like nondisjunction alias anaphase lagging, in which case sister chromatids do not segregate in a correct manner among 2 daughter cells [1]. with regards to PGT-A, mosaic embryo is the one which possess a mixture of euploid as well as aneuploid cells can occur in apparently healthy pregnancies in addition to births, although with lesser success rates in contrast to euploid embryo [2,3].

The current PGT-A works on the basis that a cellular biopsy of the trophectoderm (TE) represents the full blastocyst. The utilization of PGT-A, with whole genomic amplification (WGA) in association with next generation sequencing (NGS)methods are the way it is presently used, besides has resulted in escalation of throughput efficacy, besides the capacity of obtaining greater in detail evaluation. This has further resulted in being able to find out the embryo biopsies that are anticipated to be mosaic. To transfer or not these embryos has continuously remained a dilemma. Relatively greater dynamic range, besides resolution, as well as is believed to be the maximum accurate for finding the intrabiopsy mosaicism in the 20%-40% range among uniform euploidy as well as aneuploidy [2]. These thresholds are correlated with fact that in case of a classical TE biopsy might possess 5cells as well as thus anywhere among $1/5^{th}$ - 4/5 the aberrant cells in cases of mosaicism. Several documents have demonstrated that correct detection of mosaicism with the utilization of mixing experiment of cell as well as DNA with WGA - dependent NGS [2,3]. Thus, a grading system which considers mosaicism as different category has been posited [4]. Case series that are small in numbers have documented live birth rates (LBR), subsequent to transfer of such embryos .The basis of carrying out these is the assumption that the outcomes of PGT-A following trophectoderm (TE) biopsy might not correctly depict the genetic makeup of the inner cell mass (ICM), that the aberrations, in the cell lines might self-correct or that what we have anticipated to be mosaicism might not have clinical significance. Thus it is of importance to understand that NGS does not assess single cells, however it analyzes the outcomes from bioinformatics data evaluation. The significant fact is that we lack knowledge with regards to any surety, what the clinical results subsequent to mosaic embryo transfer (ET) are.

The paradigm by which any mosaic embryos should get transferred, besides if embryos need the labelling of mosaic, as well as if they require more detailed characterization with regards to the degree or type of mosaicism is markedly a topic of conflict. besides, that how the extraneous factors influence the incidence of mosaicism has not got illustrated with clarity. The Practice Committee of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) more recently gave an opinion with regards to the issues for which no solution is there [5]. As per there guidelines every clinic is required to possess policies with clarity in place with regards to the transfer of such kind of embryos, besides giving information, to all patients with regards to these policies, along with adequate counseling that is inclusive of from a person specializing in genetics in order to be able to carry out informed decision.

One major query that requires an answer is if separate kinds of mosaicism that get a diagnosis subsequent to PGT-A end invariably results following embryo transfer (ET). A massive retrospective trial conducted via Viotti et al. [6], analyzed results subsequent to ET of embryos that had been anticipated to be mosaic subsequent to WGA as well as NGS in addition to contrast these results with the historic controls that were constituted by embryo transfer of those that had been anticipated to be euploid with the utilization of akin PGT-A methodology. On evaluation of 5561 euploid blastocysts as well as 1000 mosaic blastocysts their observation was that the euploid group resulting in significantly greater Implantation along with ongoing pregnancy/ birth rates (OP)/B, in contrast to the combined mosaic group that influenced, just whole chromosomes (with Implantation ;57.2% vs 46.5% vs 41.8%); with chromosomal mosaic embryos with level (%aneuploid cells) <50% had significantly>beneficial results in contrast to those with ≥ 50%group (with Implantation; 44.5.% vs 30.4%; OP /B 36.1% vs 19.3%); Mosaic type (nature of aneuploidy indicated in mosaicism) from mosaicism implicating segmental aberrations to complicated aneuploidies implicating 3 or ≥ 3 chromosomes (with Implantation; 51.6% vs 30.4% OP/B 43.1%; vs 20.8%). On combination of mosaic level, type in addition to embryos morphology demonstrated the order of subcategories with regards to the chances of positive results. Though their conclusions were that the evaluation of the compiled data depicted the mosaicism as per PGT-A, the results were influenced in a statistically significant way, that aided them to generate a proof dependent scheme with regards to priority for Clinical utilization of mosaic embryos.

This multicenter, retrospective trial comprised of a series of 1000 embryos that had got anticipated to be mosaic in addition to 5561 embryos that had been anticipated to be euploid from 7 areas in 3 countries. In the anticipated mosaic group, a significant percentage (16.6%) embryos had undergone prior embryo transfer as well as had got the classification, of euploid along with got reclassified that they were anticipated to be mosaic on reevaluation. Hence their conclusions were documented as the ones which one would have anticipated i.e., both Implantation along with pregnancy rates were lesser with greater miscarriage rates subsequent to transfer of anticipated mosaic vis a vis euploid embryos. Additionally, the ones that were possessing greater complication, with regards to mosaicism in contrast to the segmental mosaics. Thus, they posited that to triage as far as these anticipated mosaic embryos are concerned to get the maximum outcome with regards to Implantation along with ongoing pregnancy rates (see FIG. 1. and 2.).

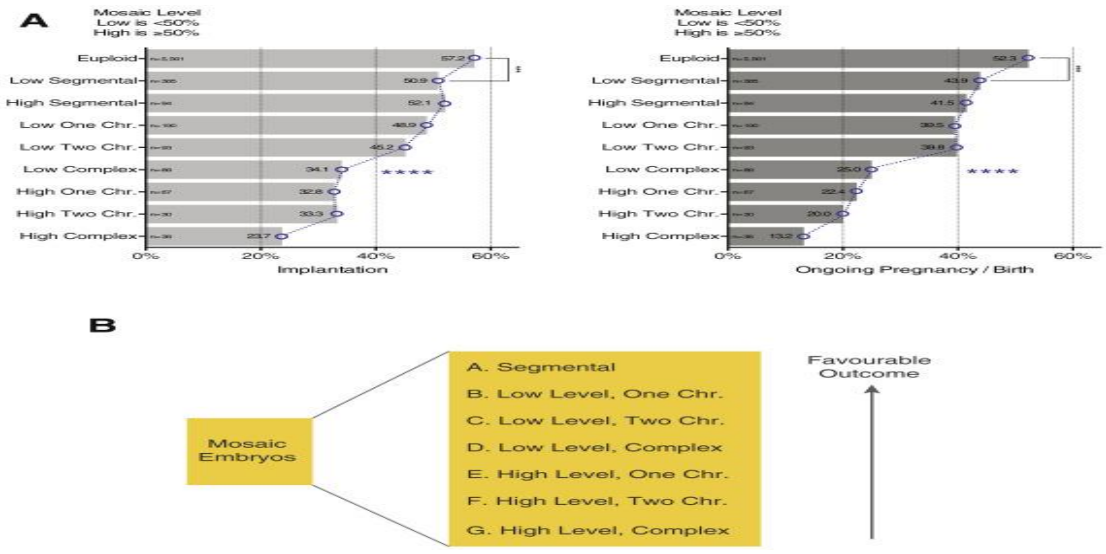

FIG. 1. **Courtesy ref no-6-combined effect of mosaic traits on clinical outcome reveals ranking system for mosaic embryos. (**a**) clinical outcomes of the euploid group compared with mosaic groups sorted by mosaic level and type. For**

mosaic level, "low" is <50%, "high" is ≥ 50%. Chi-square test for trend (blue dotted line and connected points) indicates statistically significant trend. (b) ranking of mosaic embryo subgroups, sorted by favorable clinical outcomes. Chr. =chromosome

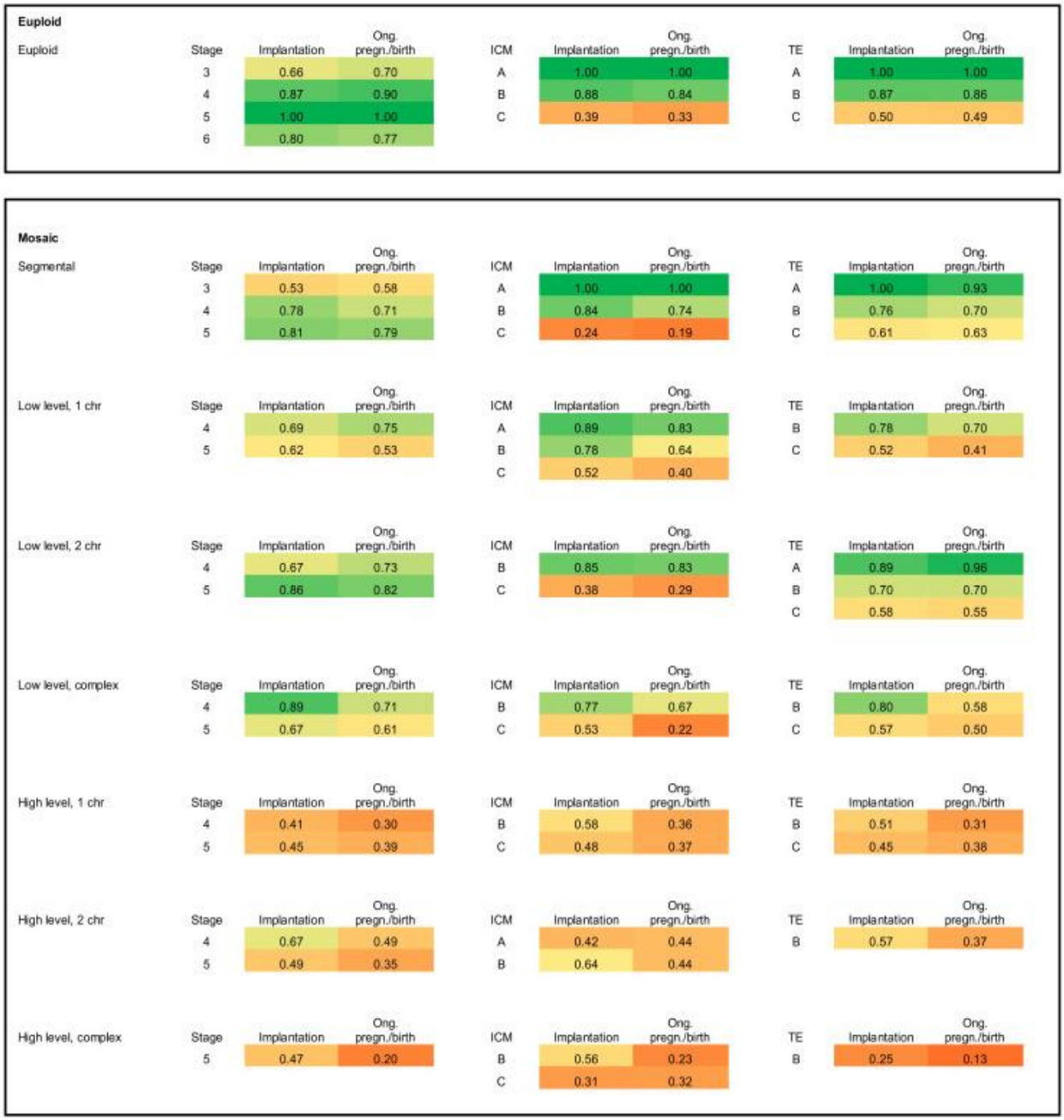

FIG. 2. **Courtesy ref no-6-Matrix of embryo ranking according to mosaicism traits and morphology. Values and cell colors indicate ranking, from best (1.00/*green*) to worst (0.00/*red*). The figure was generated using the data from 5,561 euploid embryos and 1,000 mosaic embryos analyzed in this study and can serve as a reference to determine prospectively the order of transfer for embryos in the clinic. The combined rank value for an embryo can be assessed by considering its PGT-A (sub-) category and calculating the average of the 3 indicated values (Stage, ICM grade, and TE grade). The resulting number can be compared with that of other embryos in a cohort to establish priority for transfer. A web-based tool of this matrix that performs calculations for the user is available at https://embryo-score.web.app. Chr. =chromosome; ICM =inner cell mass; Ong. pregn. =ongoing pregnancy; PGT-A =preimplantation genetic testing for aneuploidy; TE = trophectoderm.**

Viotti et al. [6], need to be, appreciated for such elaborate detailed evaluation of a huge sample size which would make some contribution as far as literature is concerned. Nevertheless, as per Surrey 's [7] views, still with this work an ultimate conflict

that is surrounding this issue of all the sequential anticipated mosaic as well as euploid ET which agreed with their criteria for inclusion that were conducted in every center for the particular period that met the specification. In case this was not the reason it would be of interest to get insight why certain cases were recruited as well as rest excluded or the exact selection criteria for the controls. Restricted data was yielded with regards to the baseline contrast among groups. Despite, the inclusion of morphology of blastocyst in the subset evaluation, an assumption of the controls is depicting a matched patient's population cannot be drawn.

Logically one can assume that that the patients that possessed no euploid embryos with idea for transfer (94.6% of patients in this study) possess, poorer capacity of Implantation as well as /or had experienced a prior failure of implantation of euploid embryos in contrast to those belonging to the control samples. Furthermore, it has not been clarified why these clinicians decided to include greater than single embryo transfer in case of this evaluation.

Viotti et al. [6], in their introduction used the terms that is 'subjectivity in diagnosing mosaicis' [6]. A huge variation that varied from 11%-25.7% were reported in the rates of diagnosis of the anticipated mosaics of the centers used for this study, that were all making utilization of the same PGT-A methodology in their centers.

This depicts a separate confounding variable which has not got communicated with minimal possibility to be secondary to differences in the patient population. Swain [8], documented that the interpretation of outcomes, biopsy methodology, besides lot of laboratory parameters have the capacity of influencing the results.

Moreover, lot of ethical, in addition to philosophical concerns need to be communicated. What is not clear is why certain patients had to go through embryo transfer that had been initially labelled as euploid however later relabeled as anticipated mosaics were not told to the patients, having the knowledge of what these observation might imply with regards to their child as well as guidelines for future fertility. The reason must be offered why no pregenetic counselling was done prior to the repeated evaluation of the embryos. The reasons offered by the researchers, was that the reasons patients could not been informed is in view of anonymity, however, as per Surrey [7] there is an inherent responsibility of notifying the respective clinic to ensure appropriately subsequent follow ups, with proper knowledge imparted.

Greater uniformity with regards to informed consent in addition to counselling that was done center wise is a requirement. Nature of counselling done, besides what risks were detailed, besides uniformity sustenance center wise is a requirement. What if what was anticipated as mosaics ends up in a baby born with any congenital abnormality that might be associated with a live birth, say a trisomy 21 aneuploidy?

Supposedly the biggest problem existed with regards to this work as well as others that undertake this topic of anticipated mosaics ET is the absence of follow up as far as pregnancy results with absence of prenatal/postnatal genetic evaluation is. The clinicians, of this study cited that births from anticipated mosaics ET cause a "seemingly healthy pregnancies as well as births, besides their newborns that are born subsequent to these anticipated mosaics ET have been invariably healthy by routine neonatal examination for developmental deficits and gross abnormalities" as per the authors wordings [6]. Since no data is presented, it can't get analyzed as well as without any prenatal/postnatal chromosomal evaluation along with that of products

of conception from pregnancy disruptions, one can't anticipate that outcomes from these embryos is different from euploid ones.

2. Conclusion

The large-scale evaluation, in addition to long details aid us to address our priorities in reference to which anticipated mosaic embryos might get transferred with success, yet certain queries need answers. An appropriate designing of a prospective trial for akin patient populations. May be as proposed by, Capalbo et al. [9], another method might be a non selection trial [9]. An alternate method might be a prospective trial where just a single (ET) of embryos anticipated to be mosaic for abnormalities which could not end in a chromosomal aberrant live birth [9].

To our bad fortune, the contra dictions with regards to the anticipated mosaics, embryo transfer are highly distant from getting solved. Our aim in assisted reproductive technology (ART) needs to be not just escalation of implantation along with pregnancy rates, however we need to decide on the basis of proof that ensures that our decision making has been in the best interest of attaining a healthy child's birth.

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