September 16, 2024

Seattle Sperm Bank

MEDICAL UPDATE LETTER FOR DONOR #10508 (FLASH) - 2024-09-16

A pregnancy conceived from Donor #10508 (Flash) was reported to have a neural tube defect.

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing to provide a medical update regarding Donor #10508 (Flash).

Why am I receiving this letter?

Birth defects affect 3-5% of babies in the United States. Most birth defects occur spoardically, without a family history. After Seattle Sperm Bank is notified of a birth defect in a child resulting from a sperm donor, the genetics team collects medical information from the reporting recipient and investigates the donor's personal and family medical history. If Seattle Sperm Bank determines that the chance for the birth defect to occur in half-siblings of the affected child may be increased beyond that of the general population, a medical update letter is provided to all recipients of the sperm donor.

What is a neural tube defect?

Seattle Sperm Bank was recently notified that a pregnancy resulting from donor #10508 (Flash) was found to have isolated anencephaly, a serious birth defect where the fetus develops without parts of the brain and skull. Anencephaly is a type of neural tube defect. Based on the information available for review, there is no known genetic cause of anencephaly, no other birth defects and no family history of this condition from the egg source or sperm source.

Neural tube defects, like anencephaly, can be due to genetic syndromes or they can be multifactorial, meaning they are caused by a combination of multiple genetic factors and/or environmental factors. Certain risk factors, including low folate in early pregnancy, certain medications, and pre-existing health conditions, can increase the chance for anencephaly in a pregnancy. There may be a slightly increased chance for neural tube defects in other children of this donor.

Interpretation:

- Children conceived using sperm from donor #10508 (Flash) may have a slightly increased chance for neural tube defects, compared to the general population risk of 1 in 1,000 (0.1%).
- Please share this letter with your fertility doctors and any clinicians caring for you in pregnancy, as they may recommend screening for neural tube defects and/or folate supplementation.

If Seattle Sperm Bank receives additional medical information that would impact the risk for birth defects in children of this donor, we will notify you by sending a follow-up letter. Please notify Seattle Sperm Bank of births and or pregnancies beyond the first trimester using SSB's birth reporting webpage and notify the genetics team if your child has been diagnosed with any medical finding.

Do not hesitate to reach out if questions arise or if clarification would be helpful. You are welcome to schedule a phone consultation with one of Seattle Sperm Bank's certified genetic counselors if you would like to discuss this information over the phone.

In partnership,

Katherine Hornberger, MS, CGC
Certified Genetic Counselor
Seattle Sperm Bank
(206) 588-1484
Genetics@SeattleSpermBank.com

Brynn Persky, MS, CGC
Certified Genetic Counselor
Seattle Sperm Bank
(206) 588-1484
Genetics@SeattleSpermBank.com

James Kuan, MD
Medical Director
Seattle Sperm Bank
(206) 588-1484
James@seattlespermbank.com