

Interactive Case for October-November 2001

(comments closed)

One of your close friends is going to a fertility clinic that specializes in assisted reproduction by in vitro fertilization. In this technique, sperm are used to fertilize eggs outside the human body, and then the fertilized eggs (embryos) are implanted in the woman. Because the procedure is inefficient, extra embryos always are prepared. Before the clinic begins treatment, patients are asked to decide what they would like done with any embryos left over after treatment. Here are choices that have been offered to your friend:

- 1) Save the extra embryos for possible implantation in the future.
- 2) Donate them to another person.
- 3) Throw them away.
- 4) Use them for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future.

Your friend has asked for your advice regarding what to do with her leftover embryos. What do you think? What are your reasons for accepting or rejecting the different options?

Dear Students,

Thank you for your thoughtful and interesting commentaries. We received responses from 181 students representing 18 different schools. As your problem mentioned, patients at a fertility clinic are required to sign a consent form to specify what option they wish to use for any excess embryos -- save them, donate them, throw them away, or use them for research. The patients can change this consent at any time if they change their minds. Those of you who expressed a strong opinion said:

- A. Save them, 40%
- B. Donate them, 17%
- C. Throw them away, 3%
- D. Use them for research, 28%

Comparing the options separately, 60% of you were willing to consider options A, B, or D, but 60% of you definitely opposed throwing the embryos away.

The opinion of ethicists about use of embryos usually depends on how they view the embryo's "personhood." There are four common views, which are held very strongly by different people with different backgrounds.

- 1) The embryo is a person.
- 2) The embryo is a potential person and should be thought of as a "pre-embryo" until brought into circumstances (implantation in a woman) in which it can achieve its full potential.

3) One cannot say when the embryo becomes a person, but at least it doesn't happen before day 14 after fertilization because the embryo can still develop into twins up until that day.

4) Embryos do not have personhood but deserve our respect.

Those who believe that the embryo is a person sometimes oppose in vitro fertilization because they do not want to see the inevitable outcome that some embryos will be destroyed. They almost certainly oppose research with embryos. On the other hand, those who have less strong opinions about the embryo's personhood tend to view the options more in terms of risks and benefits of particular choices. For instance, stem cell research has been intensely debated with those in favor arguing that the potential benefit of curing disease outweighs the risk of disrespect to the embryo.

For fertility clinics, the biggest dilemma often is embryo abandonment. Embryos have been left in some storage facilities for up to 15 years. Once the clinic can no longer contact the patient, what can they do? Many clinics continue to save these embryos, and some people think that there are over 100,000 or more embryos in storage in the United States.

Student Comments:

11/05/01

If my friend asked me what she should do with the frozen zygote I would tell her all the different views of each of the choices. For instance, if she decided to save the embryos for possible implantation in the future, I would explain to her that if she was really considering going through the procedure again, then that would be the best way to go. However, if she was sure that she wasn't going to do the procedure again then I think that it would be best for her to go with another option. I think personally that if she was not going to store it for later use, that she should go with either donating them to another person or donating them to research. I think by donating them to another person would be totally on her because if the implanting of the zygote is not successful with her then I don't think that she would want to donate the eggs to another person, because then it might be successful in another woman and it will leave my friend to think that woman

A.MC.
Plano West

11/02/01

believe that if a friend came to me and told me that the embryos could either go to the garbage or to the science center, I would tell them to give them to science. the women could benefit from finding new ways to safely implant them and maybe reinvent them if the necessity should arise. giving the embryos to science is a good idea and should be an option but should be thought of more seriously.

jms
Mansfield High School

10/31/01

I think that they should donate their left over embryos to another person. There is always someone out there who would like a child of their own and if is the only way they can do it I think the person with the left over embryos should help them out.

Mansfield High School

10/31/01

Genetical engineering is under current investigation. I strongly oppose this issue. Picking out a child's traits should not be allowed. Although scientists claim that it will prevent the inheritance of several genetical diseases, it will also destroy individualism in our society today. The world would be very boring if everyone had perfect genes. In the engineering process, there is also risk involved that someone could make a mistake and cause mutated children to be born. Aside from this, it is against the Christian belief. God should be the One in charge of genetical engineering and no one else. I hope that more people will speak out against this issue in the future.

C.M.

Mansfield High School

10/31/01

I would definitely advise her not to throw them away, because there is obviously other uses for them. If she knew that she might want more children in the future, I'd tell her to save them for herself, but some people want only one child, or they don't want to go through the emotional and financial stress it involves a second time. Donation is always a good option, but I'm always pushing for scientific research, and would likely tell her to donate them for said research.

K. A. S.

Mansfield High School

10/31/01

If my friend were in this situation I would tell her to donate her eggs. I would tell her to donate because she has no other use for them and it would be pointless to just throw the eggs away. If she donated them to science the research could help scientists to understand more about the process of vitro fertilization.

KP

Mansfield High School

10/31/01

If I had to give my friend advice on this situation, I would tell her to save the embryos for future children. One option that is not acceptable would be to throw the eggs away. I feel that this is wrong because the embryos are the beginning stages of human life. Another option would be to donate the eggs to another woman, so that she could have children. I do not think that this is right because I would not be able to handle another person raising my own flesh and blood. The last option to donate the embryos to research. I think this is questionable, because although this would

make the process of in-vitro fertilization more efficient, I think it is wrong to do research on any human even if their life has just begun.

A.P.

10/31/01

If a good friend came to me and asked me for advice about what she should do about the embryos that she did not use I would first tell her that this is just my opinion and I won't judge her on the choices she makes. I would tell her that I know that this is an emotional ordeal, but that we need to look at each angle and see the pros and the cons from each choice. I think that saving the unused embryos is a great idea, if you are planning to have more children in the future. If you are spending the money now for this procedure to be done you might as well not waste any of it. If you do not want to have children saving the embryos for possible future implantation may not be the best solution. Donating the extra embryos to another person would be good because you are allowing someone else to have a baby of their own. On the flip side of this choice, someone else would be raising your flesh and blood. You would have to continue to deal with that for the rest of your life on a day to day basis. Although it would be on your mind you still might be strong enough to give your embryos to someone in need. The next choice possibility is throwing them away. I feel that this is ludicrous. If no one else will take them research could use them for many useful things. This is not a choice that I would consider. The fourth and final possibility is to donate the remaining embryos not used by the procedure to research. I think that is a great idea with many pros. By doing this you will be saving other parents from going through this experience of deciding what to do with your extra embryos. Donating your embryos can result in many good things for mankind. Everyday doctors and scientists find out a little bit more of the puzzle of life and it would not be happening as rapidly if we did not have women donating their embryos. I would make sure that my friend knew that I support her one hundred percent in whatever she decides to do. This would be a very difficult question but I do think that if I had extra embryos I would defiantly donate them to research.

EP

Mansfield High

10/31/01

My friend should either save the embryos for future implantation in the future or give the embryos to another couple that wants to have children but cannot. If she wanted to have children in the future, she could have more that way, or another couple that wanted children could have one and care for a child that they have been longing for. I do not think she should just throw the embryos away. The value of human life is too great and precious for that. My personal beliefs are against killing embryos. If she wants to, she could donate the embryos to science in order to help couples that want to have children. This would be beneficial so that one day, as technology and our understanding of life becomes better, this question type would become irrelevant, so only one egg would be needed instead of many.

MCY

10/30/01

If my friend were to ask for my advise in this situation I would tell her to save the embryos for her future use. Even if she thought she would never want another child she could change her mind in the future. If she still did not want them then I would tell her to let another woman who wanted a child use them. If she still did not agree then I would advise her to give them up for research but strongly disapprove, and finally if she thought is were necessary to through them away but it would be a waste of life.

TE
Mansfield High School

10/30/01

The advice that I would lean towards would be to donate her leftover embryo to research so that vitro fertilization can be more efficient and extra embryos would not be needed, therefore eliminating this same problem in the future. But I would also advise my friend to leave the option of donating the embryo to another person or keep them for possible implantation in the future. That way someone who cannot have a child can now have one or if something goes wrong in my friend's first implantation she will have a back up. Whatever she wants is up to her, but that is my advice.

NN
MHS

10/30/01

I would tell her to either keep the embryos for her own future, or donate them to another couple that may not be able to have children. In my opinion, throwing the embryos away or giving them to science would be just plain murder. If the egg is fertilized, then it is already on its way to becoming a human life, and killing it would just be wrong.

CR
Mansfield High

10/30/01

I would try and be supportive of my friend, whatever she decided, but I would try and convince her that saving the embryos for research would be the best choice. In vitro fertilization is still a somewhat risky procedure, and anything that could be done to try and improve the field of in vitro fertilization should be done. Perhaps it could be improved to the extent that only one embryo is needed, and this wouldn't be a problem for families in the future.

WS
Mansfield High School

10/30/01

This is a very important decision for my friend to make. I would first tell my friend that it is most important to keep others' benefit in mind. In saying that, donating the extra embryos to another person or using them for research at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other

women would be my suggestion to my friend. Obviously, I would not tell my friend to throw the extra embryos away, because these embryos could be used in research to make further assisted reproduction safer and more appealing to women in the future. Also, this decision would not be an option if my friend believes that life starts at the embryo.

BDCS

10/30/01

First of all, I would not recommend in vitro fertilization to my friend at all. But if they were going to do it and they had to choose between those options I would tell them to keep the extra embryos for possible implantation in the future or donate them to another person. I would definitely discourage against throwing them away. An embryo is a living being and all life should be treated with respect. I would not use them for research just as I would not permit a living human being to be experimented on. The above positions are based on the fact that life is a precious thing and the viability and life of the embryos should be preserved at all costs.

J.S.
MHS

10/30/01

I would tell my friend that she should keep the embryos if she wanted to have children in the future. If she was sure that she was sure that she didn't want anymore children I would tell her either to donate them to another couple or to research. Personally, I would only give them to a couple if I knew the couple. The reason I would do this is because I would know where the kid would go, and that it would be a good family. If I didn't know of a couple that wanted to do in vitro fertilization I would donate the eggs to science, because in the future it could help more people. I would not throw away the embryos because it has so much ability to help people, and people should always give when they can.

S.C.
MHS

10/30/01

To start off with I would inform my friend that this is just advice and that she did not have to do anything that I say. Then I would tell her my opinion, I believe that she should keep her embryos for later use. There is always a possibility that it will not be successful the first time and that she would need her embryos. Also, if she wanted to have another child the embryos are already saved for her. Donating to someone else is the next best possibility. I do not think it is right just to throw them away if you are going to do that then why not just donate them for research.

BW
Mansfield High School

10/30/01

I would suggest that she either save them for possible use in the future or donate them to someone else. The reason for saving them is that if, by chance, it does not work the first time you always can try again. Also if there is a chance they may want more than one child, it is a good idea to have that available for use. By donating them to someone else you are giving that person a chance they not be able to have without your help. I would not suggest throwing them away, because it seems like a waste. There are so many people who would kill for that opportunity by throwing them away you are taking it away from someone. I also would not suggest saving them for research to make in vitro fertilization safer simply because it seems like you are turning your child into a lab rat. There is no way to know what is going to happen to your specific embryo, and the risk isn't worth it.

10/30/01

I think that the embryos should be donated so that they can help make the procedure more accurate (this means that less extra embryos would need to be prepared in the future) and safer (so that it would not cause any implications). The embryos (in my opinion) are not alive until after the first trimester. So...you would not be taking away a life.

M.S.
MHS

10/30/01

In this situation, I would advise my friend to keep the extra embryos for herself in case something were to go wrong with the procedure or she decided to have more children in the future. Donating them to another family is also a good option. Throwing them away and donating them to science sounds like a form of abortion though. Some say life begins at conception and this procedure is basically conception outside of the body. Once these eggs are conceived they have a potential of life. By donating them to science or throwing them away kills that potential life. Throwing these eggs away should definitely be last option. I would encourage my friend to make donating them to science her next to last option. If she can use these eggs later or if another family can use these eggs to create life then she should take that option.

10/30/01

In this situation I would advise my friend to either donate them to another person or save them for possible use in the future for herself. I think throwing them away would not only be a waste but would also go against my morals. If she didn't want either of the first two options, I would advise her to donate them for research as a last resort before throwing them away. I don't believe the embryos should be experimented with instead of used for a needy couple, but it would be more beneficial than wasting them.

BL
MHS

10/29/01

I would tell my friend to either donate the extra eggs to a research facility or to another family. Throwing them out would be a waste. If you donated them to science, scientists might come up with ways to make use of them that would help many other people. Donating them to another woman would be a good option also because not everyone is able to have children and would probably be very grateful for the opportunity.

BB
MHS

10/29/01

personally, I feel that any of the options are okay, except throwing away the extra embryos. for some one that finds abortion wrong, throwing the embryos away is morally unacceptable. it would be more beneficial to save them for future use or help another couple trying to have children of their own. I don't especially like thinking of them being tested on for science, but at least more knowledge on in vitro fertilization could be found.

J. S.
BDHS

10/29/01

In the best interest of my friend. I would back what ever decision she makes but in my honest opinion. I would strongly advice her to keep some of the remaining embryos for herself incase the initial in vitro fertilization does not succeed as a secondary backup, and to donate the remaining embryos not used to benefit medical research.

O.N.
M. H. S.

10/29/01

In this situation my advice to a friend would be to either keep the embryos or to donate them to someone else who has the desire to have a child. Throwing them away is not an option because I consider an embryo to be a child and that would be killing, I would also advise against donation to science for experimentation on the same grounds. Keeping the embryos would make it possible for my friend to have children in the future if the first try did not work. Donating the embryos is also alright because if a couple wants to have a child badly enough to go through in vitro fertilization I consider that a sign that they are committed to providing a good life and loving environment for the child.

C. S.
MHS

10/29/01

I would explain to my friend that saving the eggs for further study to make the process more safe and efficient for other people would be the best way to go. Her second option would be to save the eggs in case she would want to use them again later to become pregnant. The most important thing that I would tell her is that throwing away her eggs would be the absolute worst thing that she could do. I believe any scientist or physician who goes by the Hippocratic oath would say the same thing. For it states to Do No Harm!

10/29/01

If my friend were to ask me what she should do with the rest of her embryo, I would first tell her that she did not have to take my advice, that it was all her decision. I would then tell her that she should save some of the embryos, in case she wanted to have more children at a different time. I would then suggest that she give some of the embryos to a woman who needed them. I have not had children yet, but most women say that having children is a wonderful experience. I think my friend should let another woman have a chance at motherhood. If my friend was sure she didn't want any more children, and she didn't want another woman to have her embryos, I would tell her to donate them for research. I would never tell my friend to throw the embryos away like they were trash. Throwing the embryo away is killing them, and that is just like abortion, and I am against abortion.

AP
Mansfield High School

10/29/01

I would tell my friend to whatever she did, that she shouldn't throw the embryos away. I would consider that close to abortion. I would tell her what I would do in a situation and hope that she will be able to make her own decision. I would in my case save the extra embryos for later implantation or donate them to another person.

AC
Mansfield HS

10/29/01

I would tell my friend that if it were me in this case, I would give them to another mother. I think that it would give those unfortunate people who cannot have children, a chance to try and experience that miracle. It would be a great opportunity to start a family.

CAZ
BDHS

10/28/01

I think that my friend should give her fertilized eggs to research. She should not give it to another couple because it is her child, and she would have no way of knowing what kind of parents they would be to her child. I personally would not want total strangers raising my child. If she were to

give her eggs to research she could enhance and make the in vitro fertilization for efficient. In the end, she would be helping other couples with in vitro fertilization.

BDCS

10/28/01

If I were to give advice to a friend in this situation I would suggest that she save a few fertilized eggs, just in case the in vitro fertilization does not work the first time. As for the rest of the fertilized eggs I would suggest that she donate them to research to try to make in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women. In my opinion it would be more productive to give her extra fertilized eggs to research. I would tell her that if she were not going to use the eggs, than she should try to benefit others. I would tell her that by giving the eggs to research she would be helping more couples and if she was given the chance to help others she should, she should not just throw them away.

10/28/01

I would begin by asking my friend if there was any other way for her to have children, for instance adoption. Then, if my friend thought that she must do this in order to have children, I would tell her to allow the extra embryos be experimented on to other future mothers. She would be helping others by letting them find a safer more efficient way in doing this procedure. Throwing them away is like throwing away a possible chance at life.

MAF
BDHS

10/28/01

Definitely one option that should ruled out is throwing away the embryos. Throwing the embryos would be unfair to her and to many others that may benefit from the embryos. It's just like having a plate full of delicious food in front of you. And by your side is a starving individual who hasn't eaten a scrap in several days; you're full and you throw the food away. If she wants more children then she should save them for herself. If she has not decided or does not want any more children, she should either donate them or allow the embryos to be used for research.

O.O.A
Bishop Dunne High School

10/28/01

In a case like the one my supposed friend could be facing, I would suggest that she donate the embryos to another woman. It is very tragic when those embryos are wasted, or thrown away. An embryo is a living zygote ready for the process of becoming a child. To throw them away would be useless because it would not benefit anyone, and it would not make her a better person. If she donated them to further research to make vitro fertilization safer and more efficient she would be allowing her embryos to be played with, examined, and tested; not developed into the lovely child they could become. Obviously I take the more moral side of the situation, but also ethically giving embryos to another woman is a relief to some. It would help them in the process of having a child, in a case where they may not be able to produce enough eggs, or there could be a scarcity of

sperm. Simply my friend would be spared the regret of having done the wrong thing; she could be sure that no harm would come to the embryos, that are....

S.A.
B.D.H.S.

10/28/01

This basically boils down to the decision on where life begins. Does it begin at the zygote, or does it begin when the embryo takes on functions of its own. In my opinion it begins when the cells start dividing and becoming specialized. On this situation we are given the choices to save them, donate them, destroy them or do research on them. In my opinion the second choice is best, the first choice is almost as good, the fourth choice is questionable, and the third choice is in my view out of the question. The first two preserve the life, and the last two destroy it. The only reason I believe that the last one, to do research should be left open, is because in some cases one may only have the choice to destroy them, and this in my opinion is the lesser of the two evils. My advice would be to consider the first two, because in these ways life will not be destroyed and is therefore better than any of the other options.

B.R.
BDHS

10/28/01

My advice that I would give to my friend is to let them use them for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future. Why? Because if they are to run tests, and make it safer for women then the process would be more safer. Rather than throwing them away. And if they did do tests then they would know whether they could donate the eggs to another woman or save them for possible implantation.

MB

10/28/01

My first reaction when seeing the options was to donate them to another woman who may not be able to have children herself, because so many women want so desperately to have children and are not able to. By donating it she could make a woman's dream come true. But, all of the options are good besides throwing them away. That wouldn't be helpful to anyone, even the friend. If the friend was planning on having more children if this process is successful I would advise her to keep them for future implantations. That would be the most logical choice in that situation. If she was only planning on having one child, I would suggest either donating them to someone else, or allowing the embryo to under research to make in vitro fertilization more safe and efficient. But if her first in vitro is successful than I would lean more towards donating them to another woman to allow her to have children of her own.

JK
BDHS

10/28/01

If my friend came and asked for my advice on this subject I would tell her to donate them to research so that this procedure can become easier to use. I would advise her to donate them because if she did then she can be a part in helping other women. This would help other women because it would make it easier in the future for other women unable to become pregnant. This process would allow for research so that other women can benefit from all of the information obtained from this research. The research can help to make the process safer for the woman by taking away some of the risks involved with it. It could also lead to better efficiency, meaning that there will be a higher chance of pregnancy the first time. I would definitely tell my friend to donate them to research so that she can help other women fulfill their dreams.

B.P.P.
Bishop Dunne Catholic School

10/28/01

This is a very controversial question in these times. I would have to say that I would recommend that my friend would give the eggs to science, or give them to another family/woman. No benefits come from tossing the embryos out, and what is the likelihood that she would need the embryos in the future? I believe that the extra embryos would be put to better use if they were given to science or another eager family. If I were in the situation, I would probably want them donated to science, because they are working with them to see if they may help with curing of some deadly diseases.

AT
Mansfield HS

10/27/01

If my friend was in this situation I would first ask her if she plans on having any more children. If her and her husband plan on having more children I would suggest saving the eggs for future use. If her and her husband did not plan on having more children after this implantation then I would suggest that she donate them to someone else. My reasons for saving the embryo's and donating them would be because this procedure does not always work but if they did have success and later down in life they might want more children and by saving the left overs you will already have the embryo's waiting. If they had enough children from the first time then by donating the left over embryo's you are giving another couple the chance for life. I would let my friend ultimately choose but those would be my suggestions to her.

LP
Bishop Dunne

10/27/01

The ethical issue revolving around the decision on what to do with extra embryos after a female has used them for the treatment to possibly have her own child is a matter of opinion. There are four routes that could be taken to resolve this questionable conflict. The simplest solution would be to just throw them away. This finish would probably not be the best solution, because the treatment is very costly for most people in the world. All other three ending solutions are definitely more

reasonable and just. The first of those three is to preserve the fertilized eggs for later use in case of a retry or the wanting of another child. This is a very good way to not waste the embryos instead of tossing them in the unwanted trash can. Aside from keeping them to the mother herself, the embryos could also be donated to another mother and family that are financially poor. A lot of mothers may not be able to have a child so they can receive it by thankful donation. The last solution is another donation, but not in the case of actual childbirth. This donation revolves around the field of scientific research to better understand those fertilized eggs and many other theories that could resolve from scientific research. During this case I would probably stand in the line of the actually outside fertilization not even taking place. In some way I feel that if God created a woman to not be able to give birth then that is the way it should be. The example of cloning is another time where God's creation has been altered. Every thing in this world happens for a reason and even if we don't think that God has meant it to be that way. Some people may ask why things like war and hatred happen, but in some way there is always a symbolic meaning to the actions or things. I also partly feel that this case is all right if used properly. The outside fertilization has a connection to adoption. With this case, however, I feel it is fine. The parents are the ones who are most of the time at fault here. A child needs a set of parents and I feel adoption is a great way for a child to experience life and grow around other people so the child can better understand his or her role in life. A third connection to both outside fertilization and adoption is abortion. This is when an unborn child is stopped in his or her tracks to the unveiling of the world. These children are not even given a chance in the world. One of these children could be a future billionaire, a professional, record setting athlete, a scientist who finds the cure for AIDS, or even a future president. We here on Earth may never know what could happen in the future with that unborn child, while God cries from heaven as one of his children is not given a chance in the world. While I find adoption appropriate and abortion inappropriate, the issue on outside fertilization sits on the edge between okay and not okay. The solution to the problem could be determined on the aftermath of the treatment. If the embryos were just thrown in the trash can, then it would definitely not be worthy. The other three solutions could possibly be acceptable, but I conjure that the best solution would be to devote the unborn embryos to research. If my one of my friends were deciding to take a trip to the fertility clinic I would inform her that donating the leftover embryos to science would be the best solution in my opinion. Before I did that, however, if my friend were still in school or under the age of around 25, I would try hard to convince her not to go on with the procedure. Looking after a child can be a lot of work from what I know. Children can drastically change a person's life. A young adult needs to not focus on topics like that. They should enjoy the young life while they can. That person needs to reach out, accomplish goals, journey to places around the world, and most importantly have fun. Once a mother is with child some of those dreams may be shortened and may never happen at all. If my friend was over 25, on the other side, I would suggest donating the leftover embryos for research to make vitro fertilization safer and better for women in the future. These handed over embryos could in fact lead to a much safer fertilization to where more can be predicted to how the process will conclude. This may help many women on the questions about will it be a success (a better percentage), will there be abnormal birth involved, or maybe, will the child come out okay and without any problems. In the future scientist could solve these questions, making outside fertilization a very trustworthy process. Since the procedure may not always work, I would also suggest for my friend to save some of the embryos as well in case a retry is ever needed, because the first attempt was a failure. After all, my friend may not even consider my advice. I would want her to do what she thinks is right. It is never good to constantly follow other people's opinions, because what they think doesn't always count. The person's thoughts of who is actually performing the procedure are the most important out of any other person's opinion. The tiny little embryos could drastically change a person's life. That person must not have any doubt that the thing she is doing is wrong. This topic on extra embryos has not affected my life very much, or even at all. At the age of 14, I am still very young to have anything to deal with this subject. If some one

my age ever asked me for my opinion on what she could do with her embryos, I would, without a doubt, tell her that she is too young. A person's youth is a very important subject that should be used with enjoyment. Eventually this case, along with many others, could change my everyday life as the role of technology increases. In the future a woman may be able to create a child the exact way she wants. Our knowledge of the world and technology will only continue to grow.

M.H
Harwood

10/27/01

The choice that I have decided was to donate the embryo to another person. This was my decision because with donating it could save another child's life without going under the possible procedures of research by trying to make it possible for other people. By doing research, it is a 50/50 chance that it works, or it doesn't come out successfully. For example, Cloning was a good experiment, until they started to blow the whole procedure out of proportion. Cloning was for an extravagant cause, but the scientists' went overboard when trying to clone humans. That procedure makes our world come into a futuristic novel. Saving embryos for possible implantation is basically the same as donating the embryo to another person. Throwing lives away is just another way of saying to abort that life. Donating lives to other people is like giving other people a chance to experience the possibilities of having a child. There are people that are out there who want children but can not make it happen because of the "technical difficulties" that person or couple is suffering.

ARG
Bishop Dunne High School

10/27/01

I would tell my friend that she should save the embryos that are left over for possible implantation in the future. The remaining embryos that are left could help a couple that is infertile or women who struggle to have children. Throwing them away is like throwing a possible life away. With saving the embryo a couple would not have to wait on someone to give their embryo to a fertility clinic. Donating the embryos to another person is just like saving them for the future. There are many possible defects of researching for an experiment that has hardly been researched. It could cause defects in the women being tested as well as harm a potential life.

SRC
Bishop Dunne High School

10/25/01

Deciding what will be done w/ the remainder of the embryos is an extremely difficult decision. This is simply because each choice provided to the patient (my friend) is valid in its own way. However, since I believe that the most moral and ethical decision should be made (one that may seem a bit old fashioned), I would then want my friend to choose either to: 1.) Save the extra embryos for possible implantation in the future; or 2.) Donate them to another person. The reasons for my decision are as follows: First of all, throwing away the embryos would be extremely foolish, as I am sure many people would agree. I believe that the remaining embryos should be put to use in some form or fashion, rather than just being carelessly disposed of. Although this decision is valid in that the patient is immediately and easily saved from any further hassles or second thoughts concerning

the remaining embryos, this is not enough reason considering what other things could have been done with the embryos. Using the embryos for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future is an extremely "good" decision. Who wouldn't want the progression of science to continue in yet another area of our lives? In doing this women who are unable to bare children would not only have a greater chance of doing so, they would also feel as well as be fully secure/safe in the process. However, the embryos used in the research can still never become children. Thus, making this decision is much like simply disposing of the embryos. I believe that in making any decision about what to do with the embryos, the decisions that allow the embryos to become living, breathing individuals should be taken into consideration. Thus, I would be compelled to advise my friend on the first two choices.

10/25/01

Considering all of the possible choices, I would definitely not advise her to throw them away. Why throw something away when it can be used for scientific advancement which could improve the quality and efficiency of the procedure and effect millions of women in the future? If my friend did not want to donate the embryos to science because of her own personal morals, she could either donate them to other women seeking to have children or save them for future use if she plans to have more children. Keeping them for future use would be a very wise idea if she planned to have more children just so she wouldn't have to go through the same decision in the future of what to do with the embryos and also, she would not have to go through the procedure of creating the embryos again. If my friend did not wish to have children in the future, she could donate the embryos to other women incapable of conceiving even with in vitro fertilization. Either of the three decisions she chose would be giving someone a

A.G.
Dunbar High School

10/25/01

There are many factors to consider for this case. If my friend is planning on having more children in the future or is very doubtful of the procedure working the first time, then she should obviously save the extra embryos. By donating her extra embryos, she would be giving another woman an opportunity to have children. However, if she feels uncomfortable donating her embryos to a 'stranger', then I believe they should be used for research. This could improve the process by making it more efficient and safer..after all, presently, the procedure for vitro fertilization is not always dependable. Using the extra embryos for research would be beneficial for other women in the future, and is perhaps the best choice. However, the decision should ultimately be left up to my friend.

S.J.
DHS

10/25/01

I think the course of action depends on the woman. If she is looking into having multiple pregnancies from this clinic I would advise her to save the extra embryos for those possible future implantations. If she only wanted this as a one time thing, I would advise donating them to research to make it easier and better for women in the future to be able to go through the procedure. If she

is unsure about her future plans it would be best to save them just in case she wants them in the future and if she doesn't she can have them donated.

J. E.
Dunbar High School

10/25/01

Since it is known that in vitro fertilization is not always successful, I would advise my friend to save the extra embryos. This way if the procedure fails the first time, she has the option of trying a few more times in hope of success. However, if, by chance, my friend becomes pregnant and still has embryos left over, I think it would be wise of her to donate those embryos to research. This way she would be helping other women who are considering or experimenting with the in vitro procedure. Her embryos could help discover a way for scientists to increase the success factor of the procedure. Ultimately, it seems either one or both of these suggestions would be most helpful to my friend and others interested in this procedure.

R. P.
Dunbar High School

10/24/01

I would tell my friend to utilize her remaining eggs for a better cause, by giving them to the research that is intended toward the vitro fertilization process to become much safer and favorable for other women in the future. This can be a remarkable help that one can be doing in order to improve the fertilization methods for future causes. There are many other women out there in the world, like the friend in this case, who is not potentially able to produce an offspring without the help of other external medical sources. The leftover eggs are unserviceable, since the procedure is complete. Therefore this individual have the choice of making herself beneficial by donating the embryos to the research foundation. In one way or other, most women in this world always had dreamed of bearing a baby and of becoming a "mom" themselves. Sadly, there are many women out there who are not capable of fulfilling this job. So they turn to vitro fertilization, a windows of opportunity to the these desperate women wanting to be mothers themselves. By helping and contributing to the research foundation, this person can be making a big difference in many peoples life. With available resource they have, the research team can find better, improved way to open up new chapter many peoples life by giving them a chance to have a youngster themselves. If the friend do not agree on this decision, she could certainly give the embryos to someone else or save it for herself in case of future use. However, she definitely should not throw the embryos away!!!

S.T.
Bryan Adams High School

10/24/01

Well, I would tell my friend to either donate them to another person who needs them or to allow them to be researched on. If she donates the extra embryos to another person who needs them, she will be allowing someone to have a chance at having a kid, something they might not have been able to do before and that is truly good. If she allows the extra embryos to be researched on,

then she is helping in finding a way to make vitro fertilization a safer process as well as making the process more efficient for other women in the future.

B.P.
DHS

10/24/01

I would have to base my decision on the information that I gave to my friend upon their willingness to listen to another viewpoint. If my friend were very rigid concerning their decisions, it would not matter what I told them, because they would still do whatever they were going to do before they asked for my advise. But, if my friend were open to new options, I would most defiantly suggest that they think about the donation of the unused embryos to either research or to a sterile couple. I know that some people think that it's wrong to even consider the thought of giving away an embryo, but so what? If a person is cloned, it doesn't mean that the clone will be exactly the same as the person that was cloned...a person's character is based predominantly upon experiences, not genetics... so why would anyone think that a child resulting from a donated embryo would be theirs. The child would have the same genetic makeup as the biological parents, but that would only dictate the baby's complexion and features, not their personality traits. In short, the information that I would give to my friend would depend upon just how restricted their thoughts happened to be.

Nimitz High School

10/24/01

I would tell my friend to save the embryos since the technique might not work the first time. I reject the other alternatives because I don't think you should be so heartless and calloused as to throw a potential life away purposely and that in donating the embryos there might be an emotional attachment later. I also disagree with signing things up for science experiments and they have no choice.

DTP
Sam Houston High School

10/24/01

If I were giving advice to one of my friends I would tell her to keep the eggs for further study, because the process is so inefficient. However she may not feel comfortable with that option so my next best advice would be to keep them in case she decided she wanted to try again, because you never know what might happen during the pregnancy. If she knew for sure that she didn't want to keep them then I would say to throw them away.

NA
Cedar Park High School

10/24/01

If it were my friend I would want her to do two of the four choices given. I would not want her to throw away the embryos that could be a waste of la life that could be made. Other than throwing

away her unused embryos I would want her to either donate them to someone that doesn't have the privilege of having embryos or save them for later use herself. I disagree with the fourth option of donating the embryos for scientific research on making this technique of fertilization easier which means in possibly killing fertilized embryos-human life- to make the process more sufficient.

CPHS

10/24/01

Use them for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future. This could help lead to better and more efficient ways to fertilize and could help scientists discover new safer ways to fertilize.

Cedar Park High School

10/24/01

I would personally suggest that my friend keep her embryos for future use. Though she may not plan on having children initially, she is always open to change her mind. As time proceeded and she was definite in her decision of having 0 more children, I would suggest that she give her embryos to science in order to enhance the in vitro fertilization process for future users of the science. I believe that discarding the embryos would be a total waste, which I would think my friend would understand due to her struggle with fertility. I would probably not offer any advice on donating the embryos to other families, though I would probably resort to that if I was opposed to scientific research performed on my embryos.

Cedar Park High School

10/24/01

I believe that my friend should save them just in case something goes wrong in the future as well as give some for the research for development of better vitro fertilization. The reason I believe she should save some of the embryos because if her son dies in the future she can always have those embryos to have more children. I also believe that she should give some to research so that vitro fertilization can become more reliable in the odds that it will succeed and so that vitro fertilization can also become safer for all women having this process done.

E.

Cedar Park High School

10/24/01

In looking at the problem, the relative benefits of each option must be considered. As such, the option to throw the eggs out obviously holds little merit due to the fact that no potential gain could be derived from that decision. The option to save the eggs for future use offers slightly more promise, though the reality that these eggs might never be needed and therefore wasted hurts this option. The final two options, to donate the eggs to either another person or science are by far the best of the four options. Both are immediately applicable and provide for long-term benefits since one gives another family a child and the other could make in vitro fertilization procedure safer for future patients. The choice between the two would be dependent upon the donating friend's

personal convictions.

C.K.
Cedar Park High School

10/24/01

I would advise my friend to give her extra embryos to research if she does not wish to keep them. If she does wish to keep them, then she should save them for later if she wants the procedure done again. It would be very beneficial to donate her embryos to research; research could use them for very beneficial purposes. It is for the good of everyone. She most definitely shouldn't throw them away, that would be pointless and stupid.

Cedar Park High School

10/24/01

I would first keep the left over embryos for research to better their development and reduce the amount of extra embryos needed in the process. Second I would save the embryos for later use, either for her or someone else. That way nothing is wasted.

DA

10/24/01

This is a very tough decision to make. Two options appeal to me. I would tell my friend to either donate the left over embryos to other women who need them or to let them be used for research. I personally would not feel as comfortable letting the embryos be used for research, but it's up to her in this case. If she doesn't mind her embryos being used for research, then I wouldn't oppose. The research would help vitro fertilization become safer and more efficient, meaning it wouldn't be necessary to prepare extra embryos in the future. Therefore, this difficult decision would not have to be made by other women. However, if she feels it would be wrong of her to allow researchers to use her embryos as subjects of their experiments, she could donate them to other women. She might feel that she would be putting "lives" in danger by letting them be "used" for research purposes. By donating her embryos to women who are not capable of having children of their own, she would be giving them the most miraculous and treasured gift in life. I believe both of these options are beneficial and ethical. I would let her know that if I were in her position, I would choose to donate the embryos to other women. Not only would this save a life from being destroyed, it would also give a woman who couldn't have children, a child. However, if she does permit researchers to use them, she would be helping them find ways to prevent this from happening again in the future to other women and making vitro fertilization safer for them.

V.P.
Dunbar High School

10/23/01

I would let my friend know that I feel she should do what she is most comfortable with, and then let her know that I believe that she should donate those embryos that she does not want to science. I feel that it would both benefit her and all other woman in helping to make the process more

efficient. If she doesn't wish to do that, I would encourage her to donate them to another woman. Many women are not fertile, and the blessing of motherhood is a wonderful gift to be able to give. If she doesn't feel comfortable with my advice, I would at least encourage her to save them and not throw them away. In hopes that maybe she will change her mind and donate them or use them.

CB
MHS

10/23/01

I believe that human life should not be taken for granted. Throwing away the embryos would be like throwing away human life. I would donate the embryos to another who does not have the capability of creating human life on their own. It is better to give life than to just throw it away.

10/22/01

I think that saving the embryos for future use could be a wise path of action, especially if she's sure that she wants to have more kids in the future. Even if she's not sure she may change her mind and decide that she does want to have kids later on. If she saves the embryos than she won't have to go through the whole process again. Donating the embryos to another person is also a good choice. If something goes wrong it is not her fault and the other people should realize that. Also she would be giving the greatest gift, life, to another person that can't have kids of their own. I do not think that throwing them away is a wise choice. That is a part of her that she is throwing away if she does. I also believe that it is taking a human life. Life is a very precious thing that should not be wasted by being thrown away. With everything that is going on in the world today people think that life is even more important. It has always been important, many people just didn't realize it before. I personally don't think that she should waste a life by throwing the embryos away. I think that using them for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future is also a good choice. This is not really wasting a life because it is using it to help other people in the future. It is going to make in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient so that in the future they won't have to have so many extra embryos in case of failure. In the end though, the final decision lies with my friend. It also lies with the father unless it was donor sperm and then it lies with just her. I will stand by her decision no matter what it is, give her my support, and pray for her to have luck.

cf
khs

10/22/01

I think that the whole decision should be based on if you are for murder or not. The embryos are babies in the first stage of eventually being born. Throwing them away or using them for research is just plain murder. That embryo is a human being. It would basically be abortion. I think that saving them for a later use to have other children or donating them to someone else is the only sensible resolution. You might want children later on in life and instead of having to go through the procedure again, you could use the other embryos. If you donate the embryos to someone else, it is giving someone else a chance to have a child that otherwise may not be able to. I would explain all of this to my friend, but when it comes down to it, everyone has to make their own decisions.

J. B.
Kaufman High School

10/22/01

Giving the eggs to further aid scientific knowledge is what I would do, if I was in my friends situation, because my eggs might help people in the future who can't become pregnant or they may make the procedure more effective thereby bringing hope to hundreds women. But, I would tell my friend to not base her decision just on my answer and that she should do her own soul searching and find which she would be most comfortable with because, they are not my eggs. I would add that whatever she chooses is her decision and right and all the choices are worth consideration.

P.W.
Azle High School

10/21/01

First, I would highly stress that this is her decision to make, not mine. She should do what she feels is right. My advice to her would depend on what kind of person she is. In no instance would I suggest she throw the embryos away. That would simply be wasteful. If she is looking to have other children in the future, I would suggest that she save the embryos. If she decides then not to have any more children at a later point in her life, she can donate them or send them to be used in research. In the decision between donation and research, it all depends on if my friend feels that the research is killing a living being or that it is helping many other women get and possibly improve on the opportunities that she received and reduce the number of extra embryos produced. My advice to her at the beginning would then be to keep the embryos for possible future use.

S.R.
Azle High School

10/21/01

First of all I wouldn't just let them throw the embryos away. That is a waste of a perfectly good embryo that could be used for the good of society. It think it would be a bad idea to donate the embryo to another couple because that is your embryo and it would be odd to have your genes floating around being born by women that you don't know. Saving the embryos for future implantation is OK if you absolutely have an incredibly hard time fertilizing your eggs. When you can't make eggs any more you probably don't need to be caring a baby. So I think you shouldn't use old eggs. Using them for possible research makes the most sense to me. It just makes sense to help other people without really affecting you.

J
Azle High School

10/21/01

The only way I would feel right about advising my friend in this situation is not to tell them what to do but to suggest which options I would feel most comfortable with and why. So if my friend, lets call her Xena, approached me and asked me what I thought she should do I would say, "Xena, you are an adult now I can't tell you what to do, but I will give you my opinion. If I were in your shoes

I would spend some time thinking about the consequences of each of the options before making my decision. First you have the option of saving the extra embryos for future implantation. Choosing this option infers that you plan on having more children via vitro fertilization. If that is an intention of yours then I think this is a smart option. Your second option would be to donate the embryos to another person, I would think this option is a great idea, however it depends entirely on you ethical outlook. Some people th

KMH
Azle High School

10/20/01

I would tell my friend that she should save the embryos for the future because the in vitro technique is often unsuccessful. The procedure is not guaranteed to work and it often has to be repeated in order for success. After she knows that the procedure has worked I think she should allow the embryos to be used for scientific research so that scientist can learn more about the procedure, making it easier for other women in the future.

A.P.
Dunbar High School

10/20/01

This is a difficult situation because most people would try to influence their friend's decision based upon their own beliefs. That seems unfair to me, so I would try my best to simply factually state the benefits and detriments of each alternative. First, the option to simply throw away the unused embryos, this option seems pointless to me because it's just wasteful. If the friend thought she might later desire more children then I'd advise her to perhaps save the unused embryos for her own future use. However, if she knew she'd never want anymore children or was sure she would not need those embryos then I would most likely suggest that she allowed them to be donated to other women who might not be able to have children on their own. If she, for some reason, disliked or disapproved of that option I would address the option of donating the embryos to scientific research so that a better, safer, more efficient way of in vitro fertilization might be developed to benefit other women. After discussing each option I would do my best to simply support what ever decision my friend made for herself.

KPB
Azle High School

10/18/01

I would tell my friend that if she and her husband ever planned on having more children then the embryos should be saved, but if not then she should donate them to another couple. I would tell her to keep them because it is expensive to get the artificial reproduction completed and she should not waste the embryos. If she took my second opinion about donating then she would be helping another couple have children. I would recommend donating them to research before throwing them away because this could help make it easier, cheaper, and safer to have the procedure done. I would not say throw them away because this would be wasting lives.

RP
Kaufman High School V

10/18/01

I feel that she should definitely not throw the embryos away, because once they are destroyed, they can't ever be used again. If I had to choose exactly what she should do with them, I suppose I would tell her to donate them for research, only if she didn't plan on having any more children, and if she didn't want anyone else using her embryos. They have already been created, why not let them go into finding new discoveries that could help greatly. This could help in finding easier ways, perhaps, for other friends to become fertilized, or even for yourself in case you decided to repeat the procedure in the future. My main point is that once these embryos are created, they should not be destroyed in any way. Yes, I do understand that these are the beginning stages of humans, but do not waste them, when you can help other people fulfill their dreams. Especially do not waste them when you can contribute the embryo that just might crack the unknown discoveries for making in vitro fertilization easier.

B.C.
Azle High School

10/18/01

I personally think that whatever you want to do with your extra embryos is your choice. But I also think that whatever you do wouldn't be right. However if I was in that kind of situation I would save the extra embryos for future implantation purposes

DC
Bonham High School

10/18/01

I feel that donating to another person is wrong because of the fact that what if the baby was born with a heart problem how are you going to know if the baby has some other kind of problems from the biological parents and you can't find out due to confidentiality of the donating.

C.E.
Bonham High School

10/18/01

I would tell my friend to give the extra eggs to a person who cannot have children. By doing so, my friend would be helping other needy people start a family. If you save the extra embryos, there is a chance that they could be given away or mishandled. Throwing them away would be a useless waste of something that could be useful to others. Using the eggs for research would help future women, but you could help others better in the present by donating the unused eggs.

J.H.
Bonham High School

10/18/01

In vitro fertilization has allowed many couples to gain the ability to have families where they were otherwise unable to. In this case, my friend has a choice on what happens to the extra embryos that have been created. Several factors must be weighed to make a logical decision in her case. She basically has three options, even though there are technically four, on what to do with these embryos. She can allow them to be used for the creation of another child, destroy them, or allow them to be used in research. Each option has its strength and weaknesses, however, the most logical seems to be allowing their use in further research. The final option has many strengths and few drawbacks like the others do. Choosing to have the embryos saved for herself or used for someone else has several factors that make it as an option undesirable. One obvious reason is that the embryos very well could go to waste, i.e. she does not want another child or no one wants to have her child. If the embryos were to go to someone else, however, then someone would eventually be walking around with a child that her and the father are the genetic parents of. Not only does the seem odd, but it is also unethical to give birth to a child in which you have no genetic influence. Babies should at least be somewhat "related" to the parents that give birth to them. Finally, there also lies a chance, a very remote and minute one, that her child and the child from other parents could form a relationship in the future. Although unlikely, this would be a Pandora's box, for the children would technically be inbreeding and never be aware of it. Choosing this option is either wasteful, unethical, or too risky, eliminating its viability as a choice. To destroy the embryos would eliminate the whole debate. Obviously nothing bad can come from destruction of the embryos, yet nothing good could come of it either. The embryos could be put to much greater use than just oblivion. Concerns about need for future embryos as a reason not to destroy them are also unwarranted, as new embryos can readily be made up until menopause. The best option is to donate the embryos to future research. Eventually, in all likelihood, the embryos will be destroyed, but on their path to destruction they will give researchers and doctors better insight into the safety and efficiency of in vitro fertilization. This option alleviates the problems waste, ethical concerns, and minute risks. At the same time it allows growth of mankind's understanding of one of the most revered process in nature. Over all of this case lies one other question. Are embryos life or specimen? Embryos are life, but they are not conscious human life. Destruction or testing on an embryo is not an unethical process. An embryo is nothing more than growing cells, that possibly can make a human in the future. But they are not a child, not a fetus, and most importantly they are not conscious of existence. Throughout making her choice, she must understand that testing and eventually destroying her embryos is not murder. Using an embryo is much like using live liver cells for research. The cells are alive, but they are not a conscious human being. It is not a problem if the live liver cells are thrown away after their use, just as no one should care if embryonic cells are thrown out after their use. All things being taken in, it is obvious that the use of the extra embryos for future research is the best of the options. As said before, it eliminates issues of ethics and waste while at the same time allowing for the growth of the future.

A.G.
Azle High School

10/17/01

I would tell my friend to give the extra eggs to a person who cannot have children. By doing so, my friend would be helping other needy people start a family. If you save the extra embryos, there is a chance that they could be given away or mishandled. Throwing them away would be a useless waste of something that could be useful to others. Using the eggs for research would help future women, but you could help others better in the present by donating the unused eggs.

J.H.
Bonham High School

10/17/01

I personally think what ever you decide to do with your extra embryos is your choice. But I don't think anything you do would be right. However if I was in that kind of situation I would probably save the extra embryos for possible implantation in the future.

10/16/01

I think that the extra embryos should be used for further study so that the entire process would become so effective that in the near future there would be no ethical dilemma to face since there would be no "left overs." If my friend was always going to have this problem I think that some of them should be stored so that she may become pregnant again later if she wishes to be. Lastly, if she doesn't want them to be donated to science or keep them, give them up to be donated to another person. This is the order in which I would tell my friend my opinion so that she would know that scientific research for future procedures is first on my list. Just as long as she knew that trashing them is not an option.

ES
MHS

10/16/01

All options must be seriously considered and their consequences thought out. We would advise them not to throw them away. Things may happen during the couple's life and they may want to have more children. If their child had a disease, they may need a donor to match DNA. Later in life they may make the choice to destroy them. Donating them, while helping other couples, may only cause legal or psychological problems later. The couple must seriously consider their position concerning scientific research involving donating organs or, in this case, embryos. Religious beliefs may also factor into the decision. This is not a decision a friend could make for you. The friend should be supportive no matter what the couple decides to do.

Terrell High School

10/16/01

If you ask me I don't see anything wrong with it if a woman was unable to have a child and someone wanted to donate an egg or embryo hey then go for it. If any woman was unable to have a child on her own these left over embryos would be like a dream come true for her. So yes when it comes to in vitro fertilization I say yes they should donate the extra embryos to woman not able to have children on there own.

K. F.

10/16/01

I believe that the extra embryos should be donated to another person. First of all, the embryos are the chance for a life and should not be thrown away. Donating them rather than saving them for future implantation is a better use of the embryos because the friend obviously can produce eggs. Since this is true, they should be donated to use them for someone who cannot produce eggs, therefore giving a miracle to another person. Also, I feel they should be donated rather than using them for research because, even though making the procedure safer and more efficient would help many people, some people still cannot produce eggs. I feel donation to another person is the most effective use of embryos left over in the treatment because it gives people who normally had no chance of conception a new miracle.

ELD
Plano West Senior High

10/12/01

I would use them for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future. By doing this, the procedure is more efficient and the problem would not occur over and over to other women. It also helps the researcher research and study more into this subject. So that this can be safe for other women in the future. The most important thing is DON'T WASTE THEM.

D.T.
SHHS

10/12/01

I would use them for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future. By doing this the procedure can be more efficient and other women will not have to make the same decision. Also the procedure can be made more safer for others. When the researchers research the extra embryos they might be able to make scientific discoveries, perhaps cures to diseases. The embryos might have also somehow mutated and have made defenses against common sicknesses. If so, then the scientist might be able to somehow find a way to replicate the DNA code and implant it into other embryos. If that happened then humans could be a better and more evolved species.

AMS
SHHS

10/12/01

I would advise my friend to donate the embryos to another person. Other women who couldn't have babies will be very happy. To me throwing away embryos is like throwing away under developing babies. I would convince my friend or bug her until she give the embryos away to a hospital to donate to another person. That's only my opinion so I can't say that it's right.

G. N.
Sam Houston High School

10/12/01

If I was in the position of having to go to a fertility clinic, my first choice would be to save my own embryos for possible plantation in the future. Even if I was not planning on having another child, I could always change my mind. I feel that donating the embryos to another person would be like giving my child away. Although it is like adoption, it is definitely not my first or second choice. I feel that destroying the embryos is a waste and is almost like having a baby and leaving it to die. Donating my embryos to scientific research is a reasonable option in my opinion. I have no problem with it, but I understand why other people might.

SH
Plano West High School

10/12/01

We believe that all the choices are un-ethical and pose a great dilemma . Therefore we believe that one should refrain from fertilization and it should be outlawed. For if a embryo is given to research you are killing a live, and a potential human being the same is also so if you dispose of these live embryos. A member in our group suggest that of an embryo is donated to a different family then once the embryo has been born and comes to mature age then they will start to search for answers pertaining to their true identities and true biological parents. Thus posing a terrible situation. Finally considering all the facts and opinions we deeply feel that fertilization should be discontinued.

Students of Longview High School

10/12/01

Our opinion is to give the fertilized eggs to a person who is in need of a baby. We decided to give this to another person, because we believe it is wrong to throw away a living embryo. Also we believe that it is a great idea to do stem cell research. If you were to throw away an embryo you would be throwing away a living human. It may not be developed yet, but it is still a person. Why throw away a life that could be, or that could help us in research.

Students of Longview High School
Health Science Technology

10/12/01

I believe I would tell my friend to give them to some other type of research depending on what their beliefs were. If they like the idea of using them for stem cell research I would definitely encourage that route, mainly because it could help a LOT of people if we were able to re-create body parts or harder to come by cells such as nerve cells. How many people have died waiting for a heart or another body part? This type of research would be invaluable if something was discovered from the eggs she handed over. However, if my friend was uncomfortable with stem cell research, I would try to push research for improving in vitro techniques. I am a strong believer that if you are just going to throw something away, you may as well use it for something useful. If we were able to improve upon the technique, it would enable other people to not have to make the same decision, because we would not have to take as many eggs out of the mother and would not have to throw as many away. You obviously can't keep them indefinitely not only from a cost point of view, but a storage problem as well. Donating them to another person would be acceptable, as it

would allow another mother to not have to go through getting their eggs taken out, but it seems a little creepy to me. And to just throw them away without making a good use of them seems kind of wasteful, especially when there are a lot of scientists who would like to study them.

M.K.

10/12/01

If one of our good friends asked our advice regarding what to do with her leftover embryos we would have to tell her to use them for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future. We decided this choice b/c if she were to save them for possible implantation she might come to the point where she doesn't want another child, and the embryos will basically go to waste. Secondly, we decided against donating them to another person b/c that is like giving up your own flesh and blood to a stranger. Thirdly, because the embryos are humans if she were to have them thrown away it would be like having an abortion. Therefore, using them for further research is the best choice, in that it will be beneficial to other people and medical progress.

Longview High School

10/12/01

I would first tell my friend that her decision is up to her, and she should do what she believes in. I, however, believe that she should save the extra embryos for possible implantation in the future. If she decided to go to a fertility clinic in the future and the clinic could not fertilize her eggs for some reason, then she would already have saved embryos. I disregarded the other choices for certain beliefs. I would not want to donate my eggs to another person because I would consider the eggs to be mine, and I would not want somebody having my baby. I also would not feel comfortable having research done to my embryos either. Scientist who want to research vitro fertilization can use someone else's embryos. Again, I feel that saving the extra embryos for possible implantation in the future is the best choice.

M.C.

Plano West Senior High School

10/12/01

I believe that the choice in what to do with the embryos is my friend's and no other's. But, if my advice was truly valuable, I would opt to save the extra embryos for further implantation. This action will provide a route for my friend to have more children when the time is right. In addition, the other choice: throwing them away, is a useless road to take because those embryos indirectly represent future life. We just cannot throw them away. Using the embryos for research would probably not sit well with some mothers who feel that those embryos represent their primitive children, lacking the aid of just one sperm cell. They would not likely approve of using their specific embryos for research in this field. The same state applies to donating the embryos to another person, which prevents possible implantation in the future. In short, I would save the embryos for the future when the mother feels the need or urge to have another child.

C.T.A.

Plano West Senior High School

10/12/01

In this case I think that by saving the extra embryos for possible implantation in the future would be the best choice. Vitro fertilization doesn't always work for a women. That way in the feature the lady has a chance to use them again for another chance at hopefully having a child. I also feel donating the vitro fertilization would be a good idea also just because you aren't throwing them away, your letting someone else have an opportunity as well. Research is also a possibility in this case. I think by making vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future, would help women who aren't as assured to this procedure feel good about there decision. Vitro fertilization gives women who have tried to have children for many years have a better opportunity at succeeding.

KLL
Plano West

10/12/01

There are many ways to look at the situation. First off, I seriously believe that the decision solely depends on the person having the procedure. Although, if I had to decide for my friend I would advise her to either save the extra embryos for future implantation or allow for them to aid in the discovery of safer and more efficient techniques. I would most definitely tell her not to simply throw them away because I believe that it would be a waste. I would tell my friend that if there are left over embryos that she might as well do something productive with them. Since everyone has different ethics, I would never tell someone what they should do.

K.T.
Plano West Senior High School

10/12/01

I think that I would tell my friend to donate her embryos to another person who is not able to have children because there are many women in the world who are unable to have children. I also think that because of the "physical relationship" the embryo has with its mother, when the child is 18 years of age, it should have the right to find out who its biological mother is. I am strongly against throwing the embryos away because that is a ridiculous waste of life, and possible research. As much as I would be in favor of research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future, I don't agree with killing a living child. I agree with Bush's compromise in that we may use the embryos that had already died naturally to further the research, but that no living embryos should be used. It is a very controversial topic and Bush handled it well.

J.J.
Plano West Senior High

10/12/01

In my opinion, the process of reproduction is a very complex and fragile aspect of the body's functions. When a woman decides to go through with in vitro fertilization, she should be well aware that although the medical field is quite advanced, this technique is still quite inefficient. Since the chances of the attempt being a success are very slim, I believe that it is imperative that the embryos be saved for possible implantation in the future. If my friend has decided to spend a

fortune to attempt this particular procedure, I would definitely advise that she should preserve her eggs because throwing them away would be utter stupidity and the frustration that donating them would cause is inconceivable. In addition, there is always the possibility of using the eggs for research if my friend no longer desires to have another child.

A.J.
Plano West Senior High

10/12/01

I think that the only option for my friends to even consider is to keep them for use at a later date. I mean we are talking about human life, not a cup of sugar or something. Human life is the most beautiful and important thing we have, and to treat it as some sort of condiment is spitting right back in the face of evolution and every organism that came before us. I love that we can help less fortunate people by providing them with a baby of their own, but it should be just that, their own. Human life should not be passed around or thrown out, it is just too precious.

T.P.
Plano West Senior High

10/12/01

The fact that the embryos left over from the vitro fertilization could be better used in research and in helping other couples to become pregnant is reason enough for the total decision against the destruction of the embryos. The embryos that would be saved for donations to couples that really need them so as to allow these prospective parents to be able to raise children. By donating these embryos, you can ensure the fact that you are making some other family out there happy and make you feel better about yourself. The research aspect of the embryos will also lead to a much happier existence for others in the new treatments for diseases that will be yielded from them. To trash these embryos would not only destroy a potential baby but also provide one less needy family with a child of their own to raise. Therefore, the best decision in this kind of situation would be to donate the embryos to needy families and research facilities.

JFH
Plano West Senior Highschool

10/12/01

I strongly believe in freedom over anything. The patient must have a right to choose which ever option she wants. Disposal may sound harsh to some, but those embryos are the sole property of the patient, therefore we (society) are no one to judge that patient's ethics. Initially the first option on saving for later use is good, but knowing in advance or planning on future implantations is better. Imagine the concept of people freezing eggs for future use--it has it's pros and cons of course. There has to be either a 100% certainty rate of future implantation or another option (disposal, donation, etc.) The second option of donating is almost like the practice of adopting children. Giving the eggs to someone who will be of good interest and benefit to the future child is a wise and rational option. The third option of disposal depends heavily on personal ethics. An embryo can be considered 'life' i.e. you had conception and you got life. But no where in law does

it state this claim to be true. Therefore, if the patient wants to choose disposal as an option it should not be a problem. Ethically, the patient is allowed to choose, and I firmly support that liberty. The fourth option of using for research is always applauded, the patient is giving scientists ways to improve for future experiments and improvements.

S.K.A.
Plano West Senior High School

10/12/01

My opinion about the usage of embryos is that they should be used sufficiently and be given to the people that need them. Due to my intelligence, what I have learned from Science classes and how I feel as a human, I believe that this is the most appropriate course of action because by doing this, you are helping somebody fill a gap in their life. I also believe that this is the right decision because you could be throwing away the next Albert Einstein or another great person to come that could change our course of everyday life.

S.P.
PWSH

10/11/01

If my friend were to ask me for advice about her left over embryos. I would tell her to send the extras for research. The armed forces Institute of pathology in Washington D.C. consists of preserved embryos. They have MRM techniques that I think would help then find out more on embryos. I also believe that it is up to the woman on what to do.

DTJ
Plano West Senior high school

10/11/01

When science and new technology are used to help a family have a baby, the whole idea and procedure will be very controversial. If my close friend was going to a fertility clinic to have assisted reproduction, I would tell her to first save her left over embryos just in case the procedure was unsuccessful. This way if she wanted to try again, she would not have to go through the trouble of getting more embryos. However, if the procedure did work she would have left over embryos. I would tell her not to let them throw them away because that would be a waste of embryos and then no one could benefit from them. She should instead either donate them to a friend who needs them, or she should donate them to science. Both ways will go to a worthy cause. Either someone could now have a chance to become a mother because of her extra embryos, or science could use and study them to help make future procedures better and safer. Overall I agree with all the options of what to do with the left over embryos, except for the option of throwing them away. I think that would be an unintelligent decision.

SMC

10/11/01

I feel that in my mind the best possible solution would be to either donate the extras to a wanting and waiting family. You never know what good parents that might be waiting for the most precious gift ever. The other possible solution could be to use them for research. What if things keep going wrong and we have no way of finding out. Well, using these and possibly other donated embryos could help to better the research on making this work. It has to be completely obvious though not the throw away the embryos. That is so wasteful and could be prolonging the newborns of other eager couples that are in the same spot as you. I honestly could argue all points given only because I myself have never been in any type of situation like this before. I just can only hope that if there is or was a person stuck in this position.

10/11/01

In my opinion I would probably want to save the extra embryos for possible implantation in the future. I would want this because, if I wanted to have children in the future I would already have these embryos saved. I wouldn't want to throw them away because that is the same thing as killing another human being. I would feel horrible thinking that I killed my own children. Donating them would be another possibility, but I wouldn't want other people having and raising my own children.

A. A.
Kaufman High School

10/11/01

If placed in that situation, I would have to tell her to keep them for future usage. Chances are that she will decide to have children in the future. Unless she is 100% sure that she does not want children in the future, she should not simply throw them away, or give them away. But if she is sure that she will not want them in the future, she should donate them to research or another person. Doing either of these things will help others in the same situation. Research makes anything of that situation safer and more efficient for someone in the future. Donating them to someone, whose reproduction system is faulty, would make their life more complete.

H.M.
Kaufman High School

10/11/01

Regarding my friend's extra embryos, I would tell her that she must first decide when she believes an embryo becomes a living organism. If she believes as I do, then she will not want to donate them to another person. She should think logically if she will ever want to use these embryos again, and if so keep some for later implantation. If not, then she should donate them for research to help others like herself. I don't think she should throw them away because a specific test on her embryo could be the one that finds a safer and more efficient treatment for other women. By keeping some embryos and giving the others for research, she is not only helping herself, but others as well.

SR
Plano West Senior High

10/11/01

With the presence of extra embryos, I would want to donate them and have them used for research. The research could help several woman in the future with in vitro fertilization. The use and research of stem cells could prove to have extraordinary results. This way you are not wasting them, by throwing them away. Also with your decision, you might be helping someone you never met, with your cells. The extras should be used for research tools to move ahead in the field.

A. B.
Plano West Senior High

10/11/01

A close friend of mine has gone to a fertility clinic to assist her in reproduction. Due to this procedure being inefficient, it lead her to have extra embryos left over. I think my friend should save these extra embryos for the possible implantation in the future if she decides to conceive again. Research states many infertile couples are not concerned in a diagnosis to their problem of infertility; in fact they are more interested in finding a solution to the problem which results in having a baby as soon as possible. Assisted reproductive technology provides a successful means in increasing the chances of pregnancy. However, it is not always successful the first time. With this information, I would suggest that my friend save the extra embryos for future use, so that she has a second chance in case the first procedure is not successful.

Plano West Senior High School

10/11/01

My choice would be to save the extra embryos for future implantation. If you decided to throw them away you would lose the opportunity to have maybe three or four more of your own children. I also would not like a part of my husband and me to be given to a complete stranger. Even though researching embryos is aimed at making future vitro fertilization safer, the studying of this process would be most beneficial by observing what has happened in successful and unsuccessful fertilizations. Could not researchers gain the most knowledge by keeping close watch of the embryo's growing process? A great amount of information about the embryo's structure and functions has hopefully already been obtained in order to even suggest vitro fertilization. Although it is not my first choice, this option is better than throwing them away because there would be some beneficial information gained from these potential lives. The most important forces are your own personal beliefs and ethics. I do encourage you to listen to other people's opinions since you might agree, disagree, or form new ideas of your own.

NH
Plano West Senior High School

10/11/01

I would tell my friend to save the extra embryos for possible implantation in the future. If they decide not to have any more children after this one, then she should discuss using them for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future. Donating your own embryos to another person is too similar to giving your child away to someone else to have and take care of. Women need to be more sensitive to the fact that this is a life, and

it is so precious. There really is not anything to discuss on the subject of throwing the embryo away. They should say throwing the "child" away, because that's just what it is, and it's sickening.

A.S.
Plano West Senior High School

10/11/01

I would advise my friend to save the extra embryos for possible future implantation. If the family decides to have more children, using the extra embryos will save money and time. Even if the family might think right now that one child is all they want, they may change their mind in a year or two. If my friend opts to throw away her extra embryos now and does want more children later, she will have to go through the uncomfortable, emotional, and expensive process of taking fertility drugs and harvesting her eggs. Freezing embryos is also becoming a very popular insurance policy of sorts for families trying to conceive through in vitro fertilization. If the embryos placed into my friend's uterus do not survive, the three or four other embryos waiting in the freezer show not all has been lost. Society would not frown upon the family for making the practical decision to save the embryos. In fact, it would help heal the ...

C.P.
Plano West Senior High

10/11/01

I would be certain that my friend knew that any child, no matter how conceived, is a blessing. With some spending near \$10,000 each procedure, extreme hopes are invested in vitro fertilization. With those two main points in mind we would begin exploring the options for the extra embryos. Throwing them away I would tell her shouldn't even be an option. If this procedure was ineffective for her, she could try again or give someone else the blessing of a child. The other option of saving the extra embryos for future implantation would also be a possibility. Although there is a fee for holding embryos, if she ever wanted to further extend her family the opportunity would be there. Donating the unused embryos to another family would also be a notable option. Giving someone the gift of life and making them able to extend their family would be such an honorable thing, which could never be forgotten. The final option available for the leftover embryos of using them for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future is also a good one. With hopes and dreams being shattered due to the failure of this procedure, more extensive research could be done to make failure rare occurrence. I think that combining three of the possibilities would make the perfect option. If she could, I would suggest that she save the leftover embryos. They will be saved for her for a certain amount of time and if she doesn't use them then another family may use them. If the other family in turn also does not use them, then they may be given to research.

E.N.
Plano West Senior High School

10/11/01

I think you should donate the embryos to another person so you would not waste anything. But I also believe that it is the woman's personal wants that she likes.

J L D
Kaufman High School

10/11/01

I believe that my friend's extra embryos should be used for scientific research of any sort. Use of embryos for medical purposes should not be considered abortion. Any extra embryos used today could lead to less embryos prepared in the future. If it helps advance the human race's knowledge of the medical field, there is nothing wrong with testing the extra embryos.

E.M.
Plano West Senior High School

10/11/01

For many people, this would be an impossible decision. My opinion would actually be a mix off all 4 choices. First consider the friend's health background. If her family had a history of birth defects or hereditary diseases I would not choose to donate them to another person, depending on the severity of the disease or defect. If she thought of having more offspring in the future, then I would suggest that she save the extra embryos for further implantation. I would strongly advise her not to throw them away; there are always better uses for the embryos such as stated "use them for research." In a situation when the friend does not plan or know any of this information then a suggestion for her would be to either; donate them to another

G.K.
Plano West Senior High School

10/11/01

Regarding the questions asked about the embryos, I agree with two of the four decisions listed. My second choice would be to donate them to another person, giving someone else a chance to have in vitro fertilization. My first choice is to use the embryos for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient. If it's not completely safe, then there could be an outbreak of unnecessary problems, thus making research for safety needed. The embryos wouldn't be able to grow without the carrier in the future. Room for improvement is available at anytime.

KAD
Plano West Senior High

10/11/01

I have to say that using them for research would be the correct decision at least for me. By doing this you could give the researchers the possibility of investigating even more about embryos and maybe they could manage to develop a new method in which embryos are not wasted, so no other people have to be in the same situation that my friend is supposed to be dealing with. I know it

doesn't sound very good to experiment with what could possibly could have been your son but this is the only alternative good enough that can help people not to be placed under a situation like this.

10/11/01

The advice that would give my friend would be to allow the leftover embryos to be used in research. If the embryos were given to research, scientists and doctors would be able to better understand how to EFFICIENTLY conduct in vitro fertilization in order to make it safer for their patients. Safety for a doctor's patient should be a doctor's first priority. So by donating the embryos, my friend would be benefitting others' safety by allowing doctors to gain more knowledge about a mysterious and new technique for fertilization.

S.J.
Plano West High School

10/11/01

The decision of what to have done with leftover embryo eggs is a very personal question. A lot of thought should be put into the decision before coming to a conclusion. I think that the left over embryos should either be saved for implantation in the future or donated to another person. I believe that life begins once the egg has been fertilized. Therefore, I would not throw away or donate a baby to research. The decision of what to do with leftover embryos is a very personal question that should be thought about very carefully.

SD
Plano West Senior High

10/11/01

Choosing to have assisted reproduction by in vitro fertilization is a big decision. What to do with the leftover embryos is an even bigger decision. I understand that you have four choices regarding what your actions could be. I would not recommend saving the extra embryos for possible implantation in the future, because you never know what could happen by then. You could decide that having one child is enough, and the extra embryos would be wasted. I would, however, recommend donating them to another person. Some people are physically unable to have children, by any means. If the mother's eggs are bad, there is no way she could have her own child. By giving her your extra embryo, this other woman is now able to have the child that she has always wanted. I definitely do not recommend throwing them away. Think of the women who would die to have a child, but cannot. These embryos of yours could be their salvation. Also, this could raise quite a controversy. Some people may feel that these embryos should be considered actually living people, and you throwing them away would be like committing murder. The only other alternative to donating them to another person would be using them for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future. Though this could also be considered killing the embryos, this would also help the millions of women in the future who hope to have children via in vitro fertilization.

Plano West Senior High School

10/11/01

If my friend had ever asked me for advice regarding what she should do with her left over embryos, I would suggest donating them for research aimed at making vitro fertilization safer. If she is having this procedure done now, in the future her kids might have to undergo this same process and use vitro fertilization to have kids of their own. To throw the embryos away would be a waste, and would solve nothing. Letting her embryos be used in research would be the most beneficial for the future, and leave way for more improvements in this technique called vitro fertilization.

10/09/01

My close friend has visited a fertility clinic which specializes in assisting in reproduction by the technique known as in vitro fertilization. Due to the fact that the procedure is inefficient, the clinic tends to prepare anywhere from 3-5 extra embryos. Prior to the treatment, the clinic asked my friend what she would like to have done with any of the left over fertilized eggs. She was not too familiar with the options available to her therefore she consulted me. As a friend, I gave her advice which would be the most beneficial to her. I first reviewed the possible options that were available to her. I immediately ruled out the option of throwing the left over fertilized eggs away because there is so much demand for them elsewhere, and she had invested so much money into the procedure that it would be illogical to just merely throw the fertilized eggs away. Furthermore, throwing away fertilized eggs is such a controversial topic amongst many individuals as well.

A.P.
Plano West Senior High School

10/09/01

I agree with choices 1,3 and 4. If the procedure is inefficient, then it the saved embryos could be used. I would tell my friend that choice 4 would be okay to do, because it is for the advancement of the in vitro fertilization procedure. If the procedure was efficient or if she did not want to do the procedures anymore, I would encourage my friend to throw the embryos away. I do not agree with choice 2. I would tell my friend that donating her eggs to someone else that she possibly would not know is totally unethical. Those are her eggs, and if she gave them to someone else and that woman had a baby, it would actually be my friend's natural baby. She would possibly not know about that baby. I f my friend decided to donate, I would encourage her to give the eggs to someone she was close to, like a relative or close friend. This would allow her to be apart of the baby's life. In vitro fertilization is a good and important procedure. With certain care and guidelines it is ethical and I support it.

A.McC.
Plano West

10/09/01

Since embryos often "spoil" quickly after they are extracted and throwing them away would be a waste, she should donate them to making vitro fertilization safer. Giving them to another family may be a possibility, but the later repercussions (questions from the child, custody battles (yes! They do happen over embryos!) and the like...) may be more painful than expected. It would depend on the maturity level of my friend.

R.E.C.
Wylie High School

10/09/01

Vitro fertilization, a special technique, performed around the world is extremely successful in many cases. It has its up and downs, and it is a major topic of discussion. Many people believe in the method, while others disagree. In my personal opinion I'm totally for it. The process fulfills the dreams of couples trying to have a baby. Not everyone is as fortunate. Individuals may suffer from health problems, ovary problems, or a weak reproductive system. Many more things can be wrong, but vitro fertilization gives you a second chance. If my friend asked me what she should do with her leftover embryos I would suggest she save them. Especially for possible implantation in the future. She could make someones day by donating them, or implanting them in women who can't make eggs. Throwing them away is absurd. It's just a waste of perfectly good eggs. I would defiantly donate mine if I had the opportunity. I would feel like I was doing a good deed. This topic tends to be very touchy, but I have always been for it.

10/09/01

This is a very touchy subject to many humans across the nation. Many possibilities can be thought of, but in my personal opinion, saving the extra embryos for possible implantation in the future is the best. If you saved the extra embryos you could grant the wish of those unfortunate women not able to have kids. They would be very well blessed with the extra embryos supplied. Being pregnant is a honor, not all are able to have kids. Throwing the embryos away is just a waste of perfectly good eggs. She is even lucky she can produce eggs. Think of those women who cannot produce eggs. Donating them to another person basically is the same thing as saving them for extra implantation in the future. Donating eggs would make people happy and self confident. Fulfilling the dreams of individuals less fortunate than others would fall along the lines of donating your eggs. Vitro fertilization is an amazing technique performed around the world. It gives people to opportunity to become pregnant. They should defiantly keep up with the technique.

10/09/01

The result of this situation is definently in the hands of the one this is personally affecting. I would not want the embryos to be just thrown away and wasted. I think the embryos should be donated to another person if they were not going to be used.

S.M.
Kaufman High School

10/09/01

A woman can pay around \$10,000 for just one try at implementation because in vitro is not covered by insurance. For that reason, she should pay more to keep any leftover blastocytes frozen in a fertility clinic since there is no guarantee of success in the procedure and she might decide to have more children in the future. In four or five years when she is positive she does not want to have another child, it would be kind and generous to donate her embryos to a friend or anyone else. Many women cannot produce eggs biologically but want to have a child they have given birth to. If there are no other takers for the embryos, I am a firm believer in stem cell research and the

possibilities it may hold for medical discoveries in areas such as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease. She would be making a contribution to science and would no longer have to pay the cost of keeping her eggs frozen in the clinic. The only option that does not make any sense is to throw these embryos away when other people could greatly benefit from them. The argument from the religious right that we would be using premature lives cannot be applied because we would be throwing away these lives anyway. It would be better to use these premature lives to save many more lives in the future.

A.Y.
Plano West Senior High

10/09/01

In my opinion, I would first tell my friend to listen to her own intuition and not solely base her decision on what everyone else has to say. However, if she really wanted my opinion, I would lean towards option #4, and use the extra embryos for research in order to make in vitro fertilization safe and more efficient for women in the future. Not only will this help make this process more secure, it will be something more women would consider in the future once it becomes more efficient. As long as the embryos are used in a productive and beneficial manner, any option would be a good one in my eyes.

L.K.
Plano West Senior High

10/09/01

My advice towards this situation would be to use the extra embryos for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization because it would be good for the economy to help women in the future. That would also be a smart choice because the women will feel good about herself for what she did to help other women or the scientists the best reason for this is the benefit that it saves a lot of effort.

jb

10/09/01

I think my friend should save the extra embryos for possible implantation in the future or use them for research aimed at making in-vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future. For one thing, I wouldn't like it if I gave my embryos that were already fertilized to another woman and she conceived the child I always wanted. Second thing, throwing the embryos away is just like getting an abortion and killing the fetus inside you, which to me is killing a child that you just wanted to play god over. I believe that if I had extra embryos, I would contribute them to the medical research for the department of in-vitro fertilization.

S.P.
Plano West Senior High School

10/09/01

I think the that the extra embryos should be used for research to better aid other women who have the same question in mind to use this project. The research may be able to answer questions like: Is it safe, will it be a success, or will the child come out fine without problems.

M.S.H.
Harwood

10/08/01

The first thing I would do is try to put myself in my friends shoes. What would I do if It were me? I would encourage my friend not to simply throw away the embryos, an option she might later regret, and is very wasteful. If she plans on having other children, saving the embryos for future implantation would be the best option. If she doesn't want to have more children, donating them to another woman would be the best thing to do. I don't think that she should donate her embryos to research, because an embryo is a human life. I would stress that this is her decision to make not mine, and she should spend some time thinking it over.

M.C.
Azle High School

10/08/01

I believe this case's simplicity lies in the clear, but fluid choices. My friend should only follow her gut and heart. My job would be to pose all the options, circumstances, and ideas for her to mull over. If she believes that in the future she might want to conceive again, and, again wouldn't be able to without assistance, she might want to choose to save the extra embryos. That is also, if she doesn't mind spending the money to do so. Donating her extra embryos would be a noble thing, but only if she is strong enough to deal with the pain, will not regret her decision, and will enjoy the good deed. Knowing my friend's values will also play a key role in the helping process. If she is pro-life, destroying the embryos is probably not a viable option. If she has no inclination, I probably would not stress the disposal because of the ability to use the eggs in other ways.

A.H.
Azle High School

10/04/01

We think that the embryos should be donated to woman who are unable to produce their own eggs. We feel that way because one of us will be unable to have children and will hope to use this technology in the future.

HK,AS,AZ

10/04/01

I think if the person did not want to save them for later use, they should use them for research. By doing so they would make it safer and easier for couples in the future who want to have a baby using this method. It would also mean that less embryos would be needed in future attempts at

fertilization. On the other hand if a person is unsure of using the embryos for research, they could donate them to someone else who could not have a baby on their own.

M.A.
Wylie High School

10/04/01

First, the decision is purely situational. All decisions are left up to the person to whom it is directly affecting. Personally, I would not choose to destroy the embryos after they have been extracted from the body. Scientific research could be, and should be, performed in order to make in vitro fertilization safer in the medical field. Also, if the first embryo is not successfully embedded, the extra embryos could be used for more attempts. In another scenario, embryos could be donated to families in need. Sometimes, personal conflicts interfere with a person's ability to donate what is a "part" of them. However, others may not have difficulties in donating the embryos. Basically, the entire ordeal is situational and highly adverse, depending upon the patients. Our government can not regulate ethics and opinions, so these types of decisions will always be left up to those experiencing the situation.

K.L.H.
Wylie High School

10/04/01

I would recommend all of the following options except throwing them away. By saving the extra embryos for possible implantation in the future it can be beneficial to the person if later on she decides to have another baby. If she donated them to another person, she would be allowing others the opportunity to experience having a baby. Or she could use them for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future. And by doing that she could help further the chances of having a 100% success rate. But I would tell her that the decision is truly her own.

E.C.
Princeton High School

10/04/01

I would suggest that you donate the embryos to another person. Why be selfish and decide to throw them away. What if there was a person that would benefit from them? What would you have to lose? The person that gets the embryo doesn't even know who it's from. Its not like you could be blamed for a birth defect!

Ian
Princeton High School

10/04/01

I would hope that "My Friend" would already have some sort of idea of what she and her husband would do. I don't believe it is a choice the woman should make by herself, because the child belongs to the father also. (Unless the fertilization is with donor sperm). I would tell "My Friend" that

if placed in her situation, I would mostly likely save the embryos if I was planning to have another child. If not, the I would not throw them away because this is a waste of life. After this accident in New York, life should be valued. The chance to give others life, is truly a gift. So I would tell her to donate these embryos to someone else.

J.C.
Princeton High School

10/04/01

I think that you should donate the extra eggs to a resarch facility. If the scientist can find a way to make invetro fertilization better, more power to them.

10/04/01

I think the eggs should be saved for future plans because it is reasonable to save them for your self rather than give them away or killing them. They are yours to keep so why give them away. You never know what might happen.

A.Q.
Princeton High School

10/04/01

I would choose to not have the process done in the first place, I would choose to adopt one of the many abandoned children of the world. In the case that my spouse and I did choose to have the process done, I would choose to have the embryos saved and given to someone else. However, I question the fact that a person would carry another person's baby. It seems to me that when this occurs, people have started playing "God" by altering the fascinating process that is conception.

10/04/01

I think that you should donate them to other people to help them have children. If you want a child, have no other means of doing so, and their spouse unfertile you should be able to acquire donated embryos.

10/04/01

My friend and I feel the best option would be to donate the extra embryos for research. Since she has already donated them it would be wasteful to destroy them but risky to give them to someone she does not know. By donating her embryos to research she would be aiding future parents in their quest for a child. Therefore; we feel this would be the most ethical and beneficial choice.

S
Princeton High School

10/04/01

If it was me, I would throw away the embryos. I wouldn't want anyone else to raise my kid without me knowing about it. If they need my embryos for testing, I would probably donate them.

PHS

10/04/01

I think that my friend should save the embryos for future use (if decided). If she doesn't decide to save them or if she just doesn't want any more children then I would suggest them to research to possibly help future women who might consider this procedure.

B.D.W.
Princeton High School

10/04/01

I think that throwing them away would be pointless since they are a form of life. If she wanted more children in the future, she could keep them and use them later. If not, then she could donate the embryos to someone that needs them. If she didn't feel comfortable donating them to anyone, by giving them to researchers, at least someone could benefit. Practically any choice she chooses would be better than just throwing the embryos out in the garbage.

10/04/01

I would advise the person to save the embryos, in case the first one were to fail. Now, assuming the fertilization was successful, we would have the following options: 1. Donate to research Pro: future families would be benefitted by what could be learned Con: Some people have ethical objections to such an 'exploitation' of what they might consider a living being. 2. Donate to another family Pro: The embryo would get to grow up, and have a family and a home, and maybe a happy life, and the family would greatly benefit from the child. Con: Once again, some people may have an ethical objection about giving away a part of themselves. Con: You may grow curious about what happened to 'your child' (adoption syndrome) 3. Throw away Pro: This would be the option for people who do not wish to 'exploit' these embryos or give them away. Con: If you have an ethical dilemma with donation the embryos to science on the account of them being living beings, this would basically be murder to you. Con: The embryo would be wasted, and neither would another family get it, nor would science be benefitted from this. So, my advice would vary depending on the friend asking me for this advice. Every person is different, and you cannot generalize about ethical issues.

P.L.
Princeton High School

10/04/01

I think you should save them in case you want to have more babies in the future.

M.D.B.
Princeton High School

10/04/01

I feel that it is her own personal decision and that she should thoroughly think about what she will do. If I was her, I would have them used them for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future.

B.K.
PHS

10/04/01

I think the only option that almost guarantees life of the embryo is to donate it to another person. Just because you keep the embryo doesn't mean you're going to use it anytime. Throwing it away is like killing it. Experimentation isn't right because an embryo is a living thing. Basically you would be experimenting on a person. If my friend wants to give the embryos the best chance at life, I would go for donating them to another person.

10/04/01

I feel that it is the choice of the patient... if they are drugged up and say eat the extras then you will eat the extras.. if they say do what ever you want they you should throw them away... noone else should get the extra parts from a different person unless the patient says donate them

10/04/01

I would tell my friend to donate the extra embryos for another person to use. Many people would love to have children and I think it's just the best idea to give to someone what they could not otherwise have.

10/04/01

I think that the friend should donate them to another person or family because the friend might be making a dream come true for a woman or family who can't have children.

A
Princeton High School

10/04/01

Reporting on your "what if" scenario I would send it for scientist to study. We never know there could be a much safer, more efficient, better chance of success than could have been before that is why I think that scientists should study embryos. It is not like those parts don't grow back.

J
Princeton High

10/04/01

I think the embryos should be used in tests. If the embryos are used in test then they may inadvertently find a way to make the procedure more efficient and more safe.

10/04/01

If I was in that situation, I would donate the other embryos to other women. I wouldn't want to waist something that could bring other people happiness and joy.

R.H.
Princeton High School

10/04/01

I believe the best outcome would be to use the left over embryos for research. Just to throw them away would be a waste of valuable research material that may be used to save life at a later time and date. Those embryos could even save the parents life.

KB
Princeton High School

10/04/01

I think you should use them for study. If you can save a life, then it's worth it.

JPF
Princeton High School,

10/04/01

I believe that it is a woman's personal choice. I would advise her to make her own decision based on what she herself believes and that no one else's opinion should matter at that point. Yet personally I believe I would donate the embryos to research to make it safer for women in the future.

MDT
Princeton High School

10/03/01

I think you should throw them away because I wouldn't want anyone else outside my family to have anything that belongs to me. What if something goes wrong? The other people would blame you and that would just be some problems you don't need in your life.

LC
HHS

10/03/01

I believe that it is a persons choice, and should not be up for discussion. There are many pros and cons to do the research, but if a person is willing to do the procedure, then by all means. The fact is, by trying to save a persons life, your killing another. My personal opinion would to be to kill them or throw them away. Plain and simple.

A.L.C
Harlingen High School

10/03/01

I personally believe that they should be used for experiments for future knowledge and not re-used because that could be a way of spreading disease because there is always a chance that it might not have been detected. It would be bad to just throw away a chance for knowledge or life. But most of my friends don't listen to me anyway, so it would probably have very little effect on my friend. I personally think that it is not that big of an issue due to my belief that humans are starting to overpopulate the planet and that there should be less children being born.

D.R.D.
Harlingen High School

10/03/01

I would tell my friend I think she should save them, because later in life she might want them. It would be good to give them to somebody else, but its hers so I believe she should keep them." The best thing I can say is keep them cause they belong to you!!!!"

H.Y.H
Harlingen High School

10/03/01

I think I would tell my friend to save the extra embryos. She may want to be implanted with them again some day. If she was to donate them to another person it may not work because it would not be their embryos. If she thought keeping them is a bad idea then I would tell them to use it for research it could help another woman someday.

K.A.R
Harlingen High School North

10/03/01

Well it all goes back to the way we were created, We were all conceived by the old fashion method it all goes back to abortion and stuff like that we are creating lives and some will be of no use. I believe that as soon as a egg is fertilized it is a growing living thing if it is growing and eating it is living. The creation of life just to be killed is horrible no one thinks how this is hurting God. this is an a situation that isn't moral in any way!!! Lives are being taken!! It should be reconsidered, if you are unable to have children the normal way then God is trying to tell you to adopt many of the children who are unable to have a family, you can create that family instead of killing embryos

adopt it is safer and moral!!!

JC
Harlingen High School

10/03/01

Well, personally I would donate them to someone who can't have babies.

Harlingen H.S.

10/03/01

I believe that every option, except throwing the extra embryos away, would be a good choice. I would strongly encourage my friend not to choose to throw them away, because that is very wasteful, and the extra embryos could definitely be used in other ways. After encouraging my friend not to throw them away, I would then ask her if she had considered having another child in the future, and if she had considered this, I would suggest that she save the embryos for possible implantation in the future. However, if she was not considering having another child, I would advise her to donate the extra embryos to research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future, so that maybe one day doctors would know exactly how to conduct this procedure and not have to prepare extra embryos. Although donating them to another person is also a good idea, I think that using them for research would be better, because by donating them to one person, you are on

C.L.M.
Azle High School

10/03/01

By no means should the woman base her decision on any of the mere opinions that others or I have. She must make the adult decision herself of which option to choose and not let others decide the civility of her situation. But, in the absolute case that someone wanted my direction in the matter, I would urge them to save the extra embryos for future use. Considerations must be given to not only the humane thing to do, but also the future of the patient involved. While society has been challenged with the issue for years, we must remember the value of life, its preciousness, and its meaning. Throwing them away would be pointless, in total disregard of every value that we hold dear to us today. In the same manner, using them for research must be avoided too, because life starts the minute one is made during conception. It would be the same thing as experimenting on a robust, breathing, healthy human being. This cannot be accepted. The woman must, in the end, save the embryos, in case she is presented with the same situation in the future and not donate them to anyone else. This would spare her the agony of determining the morality of the decision all over again.

M
Azle High School

10/03/01

I think I would tell my friend to save the extra embryos. She may want to be implanted with them again some day. If she was to donate them to another person it may not work because it would not be their embryos. If she though keeping them is a bad idea then I would tell her to use them for research. It could help another woman someday.

CE
Kaufman High School

10/02/01

In vitro fertilization is the option a female has in the event that conception does not naturally occur, therefore I would have to consider the aspect that this procedure is done by humans and may need further research to perfect this option, thus requiring the donation of previously fertilized eggs to research facilities. However, I would first ask my friend to consider if she ever wishes to have another child or if necessary, make another attempt at in vitro fertilization if not successful the first time. To discard these possible future individuals (the excess embryos), seems wasteful and inconsiderate to me. Remember, "One man's trash may be another man's treasure." The most logical choice appears to vary between donation to an institution for study or to another person. In order to determine which would be more appropriate, I turned to circumstances. If there is a real need for embryonic studies, then I would suggest the donation to an institution. If several couples are incapable of producing a child, then the embryo should be transferred so.

M.A.C.H.H.
Crowley High School

10/02/01

I think they should use the embryos for research aimed in making fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future. By sacrificing those embryos now, we may hope to save the future ones. As a part of this world, a person has to think about the betterment of the future. Thus, one must have the obligation to sacrifice their embryos, which is used to find a much safer and more efficient way to implant embryos into a woman's body. Then we will save lives of many women who attempt to implant fertilized eggs just to have children. Not all people are blessed to be able to have kids, and those who can sure will want to help those who can't.

L.T.

10/02/01

I would throw them away. My children would have an identity crisis if I donate to someone else I would not save it because there is a chance of radiation affecting through time. I would not use it for research because it would include cloning and stuff unsafe to our environment.

JHD
SHHS

10/02/01

If I had a choice of the options, I would donate them to research aimed at making vitro fertilization safer and more efficient for other women in the future. This is the best of all the choices. Choice number one does not actually guarantee the survival of the embryos for future implantations if she were to use them at all. Choice number two would cause future legal problems concerning the legal parent. Choice number three is like sacrificing of possible life and for no good to you or society. The last choice is therefore the best because in sacrificing your embryos now, you can contribute to help other women and embryos in the future. In this option, you are actually saving the life of the woman and the baby by ensuring through research perfection in something so crucial to life.

TMH
Sam Houston H.S.

10/02/01

In my opinion I would have them donate their embryos to research. I would want them to donate their embryos because it could help others. The research is to make the process more safer and more efficient. If they would save the embryos then they will just die after a couple of months. And she would probably not want other people having her children. And it would just be a waste if it was thrown away.

T.R.K.
Sam Houston High School

10/02/01

Since there are extra embryos she should use them for research aimed at making in vitro fertilization safer and more efficient of other women in the future, to make the future process easier for other women.

LCW
Sam Houston High School

10/02/01

If my friend asked me to give her advice about that subject I would think she was crazy, but I would still try to help her. If I had to choose one of the following choices I would tell her to donate the extra embryos to another person. There are many women who desperately want to experience pregnancy and give birth. People who absolutely deserve to have children that can't should be given the opportunity to at least try.

X.R.
Sam Houston High School

10/02/01

First I would ask if she believed that embryos were alive. If she did, I would advise her not to donate them to researchers because that would be like doing research on babies. Then again she could help out researchers develop new methods of fertilization that would help out women in the future. If she felt like helping others, she should donate them to someone who has problems having kids. Also, if she wanted to have more kids, she should keep them on some ice for the future. She should not throw them away because it would be a waste.

C.T.D.
Sam Houston High School

10/02/01

First of all I would ask her whether or not she considers embryos to be alive. If she does, I would then ask her how many children she plans on having. If she does not want more than one I would advise her to donate them so that other women could benefit from it. If she wants several I would tell her that saving them would be the most practical thing to do. If she does not consider embryos to be alive, I would stress that using them for research would help women like her to have children more easily in the future. I would never tell her to simply throw them away, that would be wasteful.

D.L.M.
Sam Houston High School

10/02/01

I think that you should donate the embryos for researching purpose. If you were to save the embryos for later use, chances are the embryos won't survive. But if you were to donate them for researching, scientist can foster new technologies from your embryos. This technology can later apply for you if you decide to fertilize again. This technology can also be beneficial for other female.

H.D.P
Sam Houston High School

10/02/01

In regards to the fertility clinic situation, I would advise my friend to donate the extra embryos. That way it's helping other females that aren't able to have children. In a way, donating them to other females is giving an opportunity to others that actually want to have kids to have them. I would ask my friend to decide how many kids she wanted and then give the extra embryos up. Researching on the embryos seems hurtful and unethical since the embryos are alive. Performing tests on live "things" is not appropriate.

M.H.K
Sam Houston High School

10/02/01

Since there are several extra embryos I would tell her to do all of them , except throwing them away. Throwing them away would be extremely wasteful. The embryos can be used for all of these things without being wasteful. The choices would help women in the future either through research or through helping out some unfortunate women that does not have the ability by herself. The eggs would also be useful for your own future babies.

A.T.

10/02/01

First and foremost I would make sure that my friend understood that this was her decision and not mine to make. I would tell her that I would want my opinion to be just that, my opinion. I would tell her that saving the embryos would be an excellent idea, if in the future she would like to become impregnated again, but if she didn't want to do that then the research opportunity would be an excellent chance to help others out and maybe help researchers to gain the knowledge that would make this a more successful procedure. I would advise against her just having them throw away the extra embryos, because I would think that later on she would feel that was a bad decision and she would regret being wasteful and missing out on maybe being able to help out others. I would also let her know that donating the embryos to another person might not be a good idea, because after they have already been donated if she had mixed emotions about this, there was

L.A.G.

Azle High School