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AMERICAN BOARD OF ORIENTAL REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

CLINICAL PEARLS - DECEMBER 2016



conceivable
Made for the modern practice.
Shop.Conceivable.com

The advertisement features the brand name 'conceivable' in a blue and black font, with a tagline 'Made for the modern practice.' and a purple button with the website 'Shop.Conceivable.com'. To the right, there are four glass bottles of fertility supplements.



High Quality Affordable Fertility Care,
It's That Simple...

HQA
HIGH QUALITY AFFORDABLE
FERTILITY CENTERS

Dr. Paul Magarelli

Free Consult 877 475-BABY (2229)

The advertisement includes the HQA logo, the text 'High Quality Affordable Fertility Centers', a photo of a smiling baby, the name 'Dr. Paul Magarelli', and a phone number '877 475-BABY (2229)'.

Sadie Minkoff L.Ac., FABORM

The secret to being an effective healer!

The other day one of my newer front office assistants told me that a patient called in tears to cancel her appointment because she went to a reproductive endocrinologist and they had given her a 2% chance of success. My assistant relayed this information with a tone in her voice that communicated surprise at the low number, and sadness for the patient having to give up trying to conceive. Without hesitation I said "many of our patients have been given a 2% chance." Seeing pregnant women every day in our office, she understood what I was saying... we see successes that in theory, should never happen.

Aside from the lesson to train my staff in fielding these calls better, this conversation made me reflect on my years of treating fertility and how my perspective has changed. Not only my evaluation of prognosis, but also my perception of health, good care, and success.

So how does one gain the confidence to welcome patients who have failed again and again, who everyone else has given up on, and tell them that you can honestly help?

The five elements of a seasoned practitioner.

I often hear lay people or students talk about our

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medicine with the view (or maybe the hope) that it's a panacea that not only can cure EVERYTHING, but that surpasses all other healing modalities. This may sound extreme, but the mystery and beauty of this medicine lends itself to awe and inspiration in a big way for those of us who are drawn to it.

Then somewhere along the way, often when we start growing our practices, we are confronted by the truth of suffering and loss. Our longing to be of service takes a nose dive and we have to dig deep and reevaluate our purpose. If we stick with it, this can be the catalyst for a huge leap in our work. Often we learn everything we can about medicine, we study ten times harder than when we were in school, and come out a few years (or decades) later with some assurance that we at least know what we're talking about and what we're capable of.

This often feels good for a while. Like we have arrived... deep breath, relax... but then there's this thing about health and nature that just isn't so neat and clean. We have the answers but things just don't line up like we think they should. Those patients who you think are "easy" cases end up taking years to get pregnant and those with the most complex histories fall pregnant within a couple of months.

Wanting to help may be getting in your way.

So then what? We begin to see that healing comes from being present with what is happening - NOW! With honesty and curiosity, we help patients by providing a healing space where they feel supported on their path. We do this by shifting our focus from "outcomes" to an authentic and warm connection with another human being. Natural wisdom arises; ours and our patients. This takes a more genuine approach to relaxation - the kind where anything that arises is welcomed, the kind where we don't have to know the answer, or better yet we know, and still allow silence.

Unlearning Chinese Medicine.

So the secret to being an effective practitioner is to evolve with the lifecycle of your practice. At first, in the Wood phase, we are inspired; in the Fires phase we work hard and acquire knowledge; in Earth we reap the benefits of our labor; in Metal we let go of

our accomplishments; and in Water we access the wisdom and deepest healing power of the universe.

This brings us full circle, back to the knowledge and confidence that all illness can be healed.



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