

Infertility and the Perceived Role of Males

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Background

- 6.7%, 12.1%, 9%.
- Most research focuses on females perspective.
- Infertility experiences are not linear.



Current Study

- Infertility is a relational problem
- Male experience of infertility is needed
- What is the males perceived role?



Methodology

- Interpretive Phenomenology Analysis
- Three Caucasian heterosexual couples in their 20's and 30's
- Analytic Process



Results

Optimism as support for partner	Lack of expectations	Experience as Resilience
<p>“I don’t feel like I needed to be the support role, I think I just was the support role more than anything”</p> <p>“Me trying to keep her spirits up from one day to the next, that is just what I did. I’m the rock support”</p> <p>“I’m always trying to find the good.”</p> <p>“ He was 75% cheerleader and 25% confused listener,” to which her partner replied, “I didn’t want to be the focus, I wanted it to be on you [his wife].”</p> <p>“I believe its gonna work out, that’s my philosophy, its gonna work [male].”</p> <p>“he is way more patient than me. he believes it’ll happen regardless, while I’m beating down doors to make it happen [wife]</p>	<p>“I don’t think we expected the amount of hormonal changes you [participant’s wife] went through. ... I didn’t have any expectations. It’s just kinda like it is what it is now. I didn’t know how long it would take or how it would affect our moods.”</p> <p>“No. I don’t think so. Again back then, I’m always super hopeful, eventually we will get pregnant. I was so hopeful we’d progress. Ultimately did I think we would use a surrogate? No way... no way.”</p> <p>“Even though they say to temper your expectations, I didn’t, and I stayed positive and that failure really threw me. I was not prepared. so that was really hard [woman]”</p> <p>“I didn’t have any expectations [male]”</p>	<p>“The process is not easy, it’s very stressful. Trying to encourage and be hopeful when you’re coming off a tragedy and trying to be supportive sometimes is difficult [male].” “I agree, I believe we have gotten stronger or at least I hope so. [woman]”.</p> <p>“It’s something I didn’t expect and have learned to deal with since. It wasn’t anything I saw coming. I think I am more humble in general and more understanding [infertile male]”</p> <p>“my thoughts are that I am stronger than I think I am. it revealed to me that I am stronger than I think I am [woman].”</p> <p>“this next round of stress is going to be a different kind of stress. hopefully it’ll [relationship] continue to get better and stronger [male].</p>

Discussion/Implications

- Encouraging men to ask about the unknown could be beneficial
- Optimism and Hope seem to be helpful
- Working with couples co-jointly is warranted
- limitations

