

Should all children of egg and sperm donations have right to know their origin?

Although she has two half-sisters from her dad's previous marriage, there was nothing in Jess Pearce's childhood to make her doubt her biological origins. She tanned, her father tanned; he was tall, so was she. Yet when she was 28, her mother dropped a bombshell.

"She sat me down one Sunday afternoon and said she had something she wanted to tell me," Jess recalls. "She looked quite upset, and I thought, 'She's going to die.'" Instead, her mother told her, "Your dad isn't your real dad."

Jess's father had undergone a vasectomy after his first marriage. When he met her mother he tried to get it reversed, but the operation failed and they opted for sperm donation through the NHS. Jess was conceived on the third try at St George's Hospital in Hyde Park Corner; all her parents knew about the donor was that he was from Middlesex. The clinic advised Jess's parents to keep the insemination a secret.

Though some parents feel under pressure to tell their kids about their genetic heritage, many decide to keep the details of their child's conception under lock and key. A 2003 survey by the Centre for Family Research at the University of Cambridge found that 47 percent of parents of kids conceived after egg donation had no intention of telling. It's not just the child's feelings at stake. Even a genuine desire to tell can create tensions with grandparents or other family members who think it should remain a secret. Then there's the wider taboo of where babies come from.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [IVF: Do children have the right to know if they're the result of a stranger's sperm or egg donation?](#)