Fertility Preservation in Colombia: Is it all about gonads and gametes?

Recent advances in cryobiology, both for preservation of gametes and gonadal tissue, as well as the vertiginous progress in molecular genetics, minimally invasive surgery and gynecological imaging, have produced tremendous advances in the field of fertility preservation, both for medical and social reasons. At the same time, this exploding new field of reproductive medicine has imposed new technical challenges as well as innovative treatments in order to offer patients real expectations for short and long term successful reproductive outcomes.

During this lecture we will present our experience in fertility preservation in Colombia, South America, a developing country with unique medical problems that potentially affect patients future reproductive outcomes, including: cancer of the uterine cervix and peritoneal genital tuberculosis. The consequences of restrictive sexual and reproductive health policies such as the complications derived of illegal or so called "criminal" abortions (septic abortions) and misuse of modern contraceptive methods will be also discussed. The potential problems and constrains for preserving fertility related to the lack of clear regulatory systems for assisted reproductive technologies such as oocyte, sperm and embryo donation, reproduction in same sex couples, postmortem reproduction and uterine surrogacy will be presented.