December 4, 2025

Seattle Sperm Bank

MEDICAL UPDATE LETTER FOR DONOR #12547 (DON) - 2025-12-04

A child of the donor has been diagnosed with a complex heart defect.

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing to provide a medical update regarding Donor #12547 (Don).

We understand that receiving updates of this nature can be concerning, and we approach this communication with transparency and care.

Medical Update:

We have been notified that a child conceived with Donor 12547/Don was diagnosed with a Congenital Heart Defect (CHD).

The specific diagnoses reported are:

- Coarctation of the Aorta (CoA): A narrowing of the aorta (the large artery that carries oxygen-rich blood from the heart to the rest of the body).
- Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD): A hole in the wall separating the two lower chambers (ventricles) of the heart.

Both coarctation of the aorta and ventricular septal defects affect how blood flows through the heart and out to the body. These heart defects typically require regular monitoring by a cardiologist and often require surgical intervention, as was the case for the child reported. No other birth defects or medical concerns were reported for this child. This is the first report of a congenital heart defect in a child conceived by Donor 12547/Don.

How Common are CHDs and What Causes Them?

Congenital heart defects affect about 1 in 100 children in the general population. While coarctation of the aorta and ventricular septal defects are common types of heart defects, a specific cause (genetic or environmental) is usually not identified.

While the vast majority of heart defects are sporadic (due to random chance, a combination of multiple genes, and environmental factors), having a close biologic relative with a congenital heart defect increases the chances. Based on the information available for review, the chance for other children of Donor 12547/Don to have a major congenital heart defect is estimated to be approximately 2%, which represents a slight increase beyond the general population incidence.

Donor Medical History Updates

Donor 12547/Don was recontacted to collect an updated medical history. He provided new family medical information which has been incorporated into his donor profile. These updates can be found on the Medical Update Log, which is the final page of his attached donor profile. The reported diagnoses are thought to be unrelated to the congenital heart defects reported in a child conceived with his donation.

What can I do next?

We encourage you to share this family history update with your child's pediatrician and/or healthcare providers involved in your fertility treatment and prenatal care.

If Seattle Sperm Bank receives any new information that would impact the risk for birth defects in children of this donor, we will notify you by sending a follow-up letter. Please notify SSB of births and pregnancies beyond the first trimester using SSB's birth reporting webpage and notify the genetics team

if your child has received any medical diagnoses.

Do not hesitate to reach out if questions arise or if clarification would be helpful. You are welcome to schedule a phone consultation with one of Seattle Sperm Bank's certified genetic counselors if you would like to discuss this information over the phone.

In partnership,

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