

Choosing a Sperm Donor by Blood Type

Blood type of the donor will be an important characteristic if you are undecided if you will tell your child that he/she was conceived using donor sperm. Some couples will want to ensure that their child does not have a blood type that would be biologically impossible if the male partner were the father.

If you have chosen to be open about your decision to use donor sperm or do not have male partner, the blood type may not be so important. However, if you (the recipient) have an Rh Negative blood type, we recommend that you choose a donor that is RH negative if possible. In any case, if you are Rh negative, you should notify your obstetrician of the donor's blood type as specialized treatment may be required when there are differing Rh Factors.

Here is a chart for your use in determining blood type, if you choose to use it as a selection tool.

If the Couple's blood types are:	The Donor's blood type may be:
A and A	A or O
A and B	A, B, or O
A and O	A or O
B and B	B or O
B and O	B or O
O and O	must be O
If the recipient is AB and the male is:	The Donor may be:
A	any type
B	any type
O	must be O
AB	any type
If the male is AB and the recipient is:	The Donor should be:
A	*AB but not O
B	*AB but not O
O	*AB but not O
AB	any type

*A or B **could** be used, but if the donor and the recipient both contribute the gene for O, the child would be O. A child with a O blood type could not have biologically come from this couple. Keep this in mind, if a suitable AB donor cannot be found.

Please note: Matching of blood types does **NOT** necessarily guarantee that either partner will be able to donate blood and/or tissue to the offspring. Rh factors will be the determining factor in those situations many situations. Inheritance of Rh factors is difficult to predict without complete family histories of both the male and female partners.