How couples experience the passage from medically assisted procreation to adoption

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Espace A
A for Adoption
A for Accueil familial (Foster care)
Espace A
Adoption – Foster Care (Accueil familial) – Alternative filiations

• Activities for future parents and parents of adopted/foster children

• Activities for adopted/foster children, adolescents and adults

• Activities for professionals
Introduction

• Intercountry adoption is a measure of protection for a child who is deprived of a family

• Hague Convention – Convention de LaHaye (1993)

• It shall be made in the best interest of the child and with respect for his fundamental rights and to prevent the traffic in children.
Adoption decrease

Number of adoptions in Switzerland between 1980 and 2015

Source: OFS – BEVNAT
Consequences of the decrease

- Waiting time increases

- Uncertainty: some countries close, some candidates have to give up

- Children profiles are becoming different: older, siblings or with medical problems

- Other ways to become a family
From medically assisted procreation to adoption

How to move on from a desire of a biological child ....

... to a desire of an adopted child?
Experience of adoption process and long waiting

Metaphore of a pregnancy:
« adoptive pregnancy »

Construction of an imaginary child

If couples keep waiting very long:
anger, despair
How to help those couples?

Identify couples who are still grieving a biological child and suffering because of their infertility.

In the beginning of the adoption process, speak about the couple’s medical history.

How do they share with family and friends what they are going through?

Help the couple build a coherent story.
The struggles are an integrated part of the child’s origins

Infertility is a chapter of the child history

How to make it coherent and understandable for the child?
How does infertility and a long adoption process impact adoptive parenthood?

Few studies on this topic

Cairo, Darwiche & al. (2012) : Impact of the experience of infertility on family alliance.

Adoption is a meeting between two orphans

Metaphore of the grafted tree
Conclusion

• Couples need time and support to prepare to this particular type of filiation

• Open up, de-compartmentalise professionals of infertility, adoption, pediatry etc

Help couples build a story and support them in this sensitive transition to parenthood
References

- Darwiche, J. (2013). Conférence donnée dans le cadre d’une journée de formation à l’adoption pour les pédiatres.

Pour les images: adoption-bacapanablogspot.ch