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The Color of Surrogacy: Why Do Blacks Avoid It?

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In May of 1988 at the age of 19 I had an abdominal hysterectomy due to an acute hemorrhage in my cervix. I had an ectopic pregnancy and did not know it. I had been attending a white women's clinic with a white doctor on the North side of Atlanta. Even now this would be a radical and traumatic series of events for a young black women or any woman for that matter so I am sure you can imagine the reaction of my family and friends. Some of my family members later would propose a lawsuit for the way the white doctor had botched my reproductive system. They automatically assumed that the hysterectomy was obviously due to either his disdain for young fertile black women or his attempts to cover up some mistake he'd made. After the hysterectomy the doctor explained to me that he had left my ovaries in tact in order for me to have babies later through "surrogacy." I had no idea of the enormity of what he was saying at the time as well as the fact that telling me that was like telling me I was going to fly to the moon.

Although this was in 1988, discussing surrogacy and for that matter infertility in the black community today would conjure similar responses. Black people avoid surrogacy when whites are steadfast at taking advantage of this new reproductive technology.

I have developed a documentary that explores the nature of and asks the question, "Why do Black people avoid surrogacy?" The documentary will be part video diary, following me along my quest for surrogacy, as well as it will contain a series of interviews that will express diverse perspectives on the subject.

Anyone interested in contributing to this documentary a voice/opinion of gestational surrogacy in the black community please contact me at adlundy@earthlink.net. Additionally, I am in search of any type of initiatives that speak to infertile Black people.