# **Choosing An Endometriosis Specialist**

5 important characteristics of an *Endometriosis Expert* Surgeon and Non-Surgeon

## Specialist

A sub-specialist gynecologist or reproductive endocrinologist whose <u>primary focus is the management and treatment of endometriosis is vital.</u> Typically, this is not the physician who delivered your babies, if applicable. These specialists are abreast of the most current technological advancements for successful diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis. Their expertise is also highly sought after for future developments and solutions to end endometriosis.

## Experience

When it comes to the treatment and management of endometriosis, there is simply no substitute for successful experience. Identifying the number of years the physician has specialized in endometriosis is important. Consideration for an excision specialist should include, how many endometriosis cases per week are performed and how many are deemed "advanced cases." For "complex cases," an endometriosis surgeon with numerous years of advanced endometriosis experience should only be considered.

#### Education

The world's top endometriosis specialists have been trained at a variety of institutions with a primary focus on endometriosis. Physicians with post-graduate fellowships or training in endometriosis is also an important consideration. Fellowships emphasizing endometriosis are usually referred to as *Reproductive Endocrinology or Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowships*.

### Engaged

Many physicians are engaged in advancing the science and knowledge of endometriosis which can be found in well-respected peer-reviewed medical journals. Some of the most respected journals feature publications regarding "Endometriosis" include:

Fertility & Sterility, The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), The Journal of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, OBGYN (Green) Journal, The Journal of the Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons (JSLS), JMIG, The Journal of Human Reproduction, The Lancet, and The New England Journal of Medicine. PubMed may be used to find publications online.

## Compassion

Knowledge combined with understanding is key for an endometriosis specialist. The effects of the disease in patients lives, as well as their family's, is of great concern to a compassionate specialist. An experienced specialist not only listens to the patient, but also offers solutions to their suffering.