

In Vitro Fertilization Fact Sheet

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Right to Life of Northeast Indiana.



Generally Accepted Practice:

Eggs harvested from woman.

Sperm harvested from man.

Sometimes referred to as “donation” but people are paid for their gametes.

Gamete donor screenings are eugenic in nature.

Gametes sorted for quality (sperm washing).

One sperm injected into one egg.

Watched during development for 3 -5 days.

Graded on strength, genetics (A-F scale, eugenics).

Commissioning or surrogate mother on hormone injection schedule to match embryo development.

1 or 2 embryos introduced to commissioning or surrogate mother’s womb.

Other embryos cryogenically preserved.

After all cycles have ended, embryos may be discarded, preserved indefinitely, or “donated” to science to be experimented on.

Mom waits for embryo to implant, confirmed by pregnancy test.

Viable pregnancy confirmed via ultrasound.

Embryos conceived by IVF have higher rates of twinning.

Selective reduction of viable embryos may be employed to maintain a singleton pregnancy.

Process changes made by people who are conscientious of embryonic human beings:

Use biological parents’ gametes.

Harvest eggs in low numbers to have less harmful effects on mom.

Embryos not graded.

Only one embryo reintroduced at a time.

No selective reductions.

All conceived embryos are implanted or adopted.

Statistics:

- Babies conceived in IVF have a 25% increased rate of birth defects affecting their heart, urinary tract and reproductive organs.

<https://www.uclahealth.org/u-magazine/in-vitro-fertilization-linked-to-increased-risk-of-birth-defects>

- 93%-97% of embryos conceived in an IVF lab never make it to birth.

<https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9ydXRoaW5zdGI0dXRILmxpYnN5bi5jb20vcnNz/episode/OGZjNzk4OTMtNzlkNS00NGZhLWI1Y2YtNjFjYzliZTQwOThI?ep=14> 21:19min

- Not all embryos survive the rehydrating and thawing process - as many as 5-10 die in the process.

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/treatment-tests-and-therapies/freezing-embryos#:~:text=How%20likely%20is%20embryo%20freezing,embryos%20survive%20the%20thawing%20process.>

- Trauma considerations - 1st Thousand Days Theory

<https://www.pregnancybirthbaby.org.au/the-first-1000-days#:~:text=the%20best%20start%3F-.What%20is%20the%20first%201%2C000%20days'%3F,system%20grow%20and%20develop%20significantly.>

Snowflake Adoption:

Adoption of a frozen embryo.

Embryos are considered property by law so parents may “donate” them to another couple.

Some agencies such as Night Light treat embryo adoption as adoption and require all the normal adoption steps such as a home study.

The Catholic church has not decided if it considers Snowflake adoption moral (considerations of one flesh union are prominent). They have also expressed the concern that it is possible we have made such a mess of this that there actually is no good way out of the problem that is hundreds of thousands of kids frozen in liquid nitrogen.

Abby's thought - some kids when adopted need a crib and bottles of formula, others need a twin bed, a phone and pizza, others need a womb and progesterone. Children who are adopted as embryos have the advantage of prenatal bonding with mom and the ability to be breastfed because the natural hormone progression is preserved between adoptive mom and baby. Because human beings have inherent dignity, adoption efforts should work in tandem with halting IVF conception practices.

Core Moral Concern:

IVF commodifies human beings. It puts adults' desires before the needs and well-being of children. It knowingly subjects human beings to unacceptable amounts of risk. As evidenced by the low number of IVF-conceived children living to birth (7% to 2.3%), the IVF process causes an enormous loss of human life. [Estimates](#) show over 4 million children conceived in US IVF clinics each year never make it to birth. That number towers above the US abortion rate by at least 5 times.

Alternatives:

Studies show that 3 years of NaPro Technology protocol achieves about the same rate of successful pregnancies through healing and working with the body's systems as 3 years of IVF without the moral concerns, the damage (or potential damage) to the woman's body and without the commodification of the children as something to be manufactured, graded and discarded. This is not to say that NaPro can heal every system and always achieve pregnancy. Some couples, in the end, must come to grips with the burden and grief of infertility. However, IVF does not promise success to every couple either.

Accepting infertility can itself be an alternative. Infertility is not the unbearable cross. Adults do not have a right to a child. Children are a gift and a gift cannot be demanded or taken. It must be patiently waited for and sometimes the gift is never given, no matter how desperately we desire it and how pure our desire is.

ProLife Position:

Human beings were created with a good desire to procreate but that desire cannot always be fulfilled. While infertility is a difficult path, the pro-life worldview opposes the practice of In Vitro Fertilization because it denies the dignity of the human person at the embryonic stage of development. The IVF industry commodifies the embryonic human and disregards their life as a person who has inherent value. Despite the loving intentions of commissioning parents, IVF allows society to place the desires of adults ahead of the most basic needs and natural rights of children, including the right to life. The Pro-life worldview recognizes the dignity of every human being, from conception to natural death and so desires to protect all children regardless of age, level of development or means of conception. We lament with parents who grieve infertility and we reach out in

compassion to those who have participated in IVF while also asking that all their existing embryos be implanted and then IVF no longer be employed.

Suggested Reading:

Them Before Us - Fast Facts: <https://thembeforeus.com/fast-facts/>

Lutherans for Life position statement: <https://lutheransforlife.org/lutherans-for-life-on-in-vitro-fertilization/>

National Right to Life Statement: <https://nrlc.org/nrlnewstoday/2024/03/challenges-ahead/>

Students for Life of America: <https://studentsforlife.org/learn/in-vitro-fertilization/>

Them Before Us - Katy Faust (Book):

<https://www.amazon.com/Them-Before-Us-Childrens-Movement/dp/1642935964>

"What is IVF, and is it ethical?" 7 min video - Katy Faust: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dgEPIAM0q8>

The Center for Bioethics and Culture

Egg Donation Fact Sheet - The Center for Bioethics and Culture:

https://cbc-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/3_Things_You_Should_Know_About_Egg_Donation-Center_for_Bioethics_and_Culture.pdf

Third Party Reproductive Technology Fact Sheet:

https://cbc-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/3_Things_You_Should_Know_About_Third_Party_Reproduction-Center_for_Bioethics_and_Culture.pdf

Eggsploitation Documentary - (45min): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAMrwAGR3GA>

Comprehensive Report on the Risks of Assisted Reproductive Technology:

<https://cbc-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Comprehensive-Paper-on-ART-Final.pdf>

"Why the IVF Industry Must Be Regulated" - Article by The Heritage Foundation:

<https://www.heritage.org/life/report/why-the-ivf-industry-must-be-regulated>

The Ruth Institute

Podcast:

<https://ruthinstitute.org/dr-j-show/understanding-the-emotional-toll-of-ivf/?srsId=AfmBOoonaaJek60ufqUpv3zMUnWyiLqgPDR9-1hAgnx7mSxeVObfxbPb>

Article:

<https://ruthinstitute.org/press-releases/ivf-embryo-mix-up-is-tragic-as-is-ivf/?srsId=AfmBOopiZXamTxV6HI-T1YRbKH-CNPn4LE-C4AC-NIE3isg6Qlow9va>

Article about IVF correlation to Birth Defects:

https://ruthinstitute.org/ruth-speaks-out/ivf-and-birth-defects/?srsId=AfmBOoqV4nBHKTxiPoZjjbH_6Uw6wpE_of6tA4leOswM0QE16AKee_KI

Considerations to Mom's age:

<https://ruthinstitute.org/ruth-speaks-out/career-women-counting-on-ivf-after-40-think-again/?srsId=AfmBOoggmE-651Y0Er99S2Ov-2rYddsBOhoAF02Gv9jKjtyPesOYMKAY>

Conceived by Science: Thinking Carefully and Compassionately about Infertility and IVF by Stephanie Gray Connors (Book):

<https://www.amazon.com/Conceived-Science-Carefully-Compassionately-Infertility/dp/1736454420>

Salvo Magazine IVF Articles: <https://salvomag.com/search?query=IVF>

Study about Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10310641/>

Catholic Stance on IVF (Ai generated overview):

https://www.google.com/search?q=catholic+church+stance+on+ivf&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS788US788&oq=catholic+church+stance+on+IVF&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbwUqBwgAEAAyGAAQyBwgAEAAyGAAQyCAgBEAAyFhgeMggIAhAAGBYHjILCAMQABqWGB4YxwMyDQgEEAAyhgMYgAAQYigUyDQgFEAAyhgMYgAAQYigUyDQgGEAAyhgMYgAAQYigUyDQgHEAAyhgMYgAAQYigUyDQgIEAAyhgMYgAAQYigUyBwgJEAAY7wXSAQg0Njl3ajBqNKgCALACAA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8