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HUMAN ASSISTED REPRODUCTION LIVE BIRTH RATES FOR CANADA

VICTORIA, BC (November 8, 2003) – The Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) today released the third annual nation-wide results on assisted reproduction success rates in Canada. The CFAS reports that the data are very reassuring for Canadians. The rates of pregnancy and live birth in the country's fertility clinics are on par with other national registries, including the United States. The complication rate remains low.

Under the leadership of the Accreditation Committee of the CFAS, 21 of the 22 in vitro fertilization (IVF) centres in Canada voluntarily participated in the collection of nationwide data on the results of assisted reproduction. The data were presented at the 6th annual meeting of the Directors of Canadian IVF Centres, held in Victoria, BC, under the auspices of the CFAS.

Live birth rates were reported for 5380 IVF treatment cycles (including intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI)) undertaken in 19 IVF centres in 2001:

- the overall live birth rate was 23% per cycle started, an increase of 3% from the previous year
- 67% of live births were singletons
- 91% of the multiple births were twins
- the live birth rates by age of the mother were:
- for women under 35 years old, the live birth rate was 30%
- for women aged 35-39 years, the live birth rate was 21%
- for women 40 years old and over, the live birth rate was 7%

Preliminary results were reported for 6366 IVF treatment cycles (including ICSI) undertaken in 20 IVF centres in 2002:

- the overall pregnancy rate was 30% per cycle started, an increase of 2% from the previous year
- complications occurred in fewer than 3% of treatment cycles
- only 1-2 embryos were replaced in the uterus in more than half the cycles
- 63% of pregnancies were singletons
- 89% of the multiple pregnancies were twins

- as expected, the woman's age has a strong influence on pregnancy rate:
- for women under 35 years old, the pregnancy rate was 37%
- for women aged 35-39 years, the pregnancy rate was 28%
- for women 40 years old and over, the pregnancy rate was 15%

Live birth rates for cycles started in 2002 will be released when they become available.

The CFAS makes these data available for reference and education. The information should be reviewed together with an appropriate health care professional. Results vary by centre and specific information can be obtained from each centre. A list of the participating IVF centres is available on request through the CFAS.

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