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HUMAN ASSISTED REPRODUCTION LIVE BIRTH RATES FOR CANADA

JASPER, AB (November 23, 2004) – The Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) today released the fourth 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, 24 of the 25 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 7th annual meeting of the Directors of Canadian IVF Centres, held in Jasper, AB, under the auspices of the CFAS.

Live birth rates were reported for 6502 IVF treatment cycles (including intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI)) undertaken in 21 IVF centres in 2002:

- the overall live birth rate was 24% per cycle started
- 65% 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 31%
- for women aged 35-39 years, the live birth rate was 22%
- for women 40 years old and over, the live birth rate was 11%

Preliminary results were reported for 7106 IVF treatment cycles (including ICSI) undertaken in 23 IVF centres in 2003:

- the overall pregnancy rate was 31% per cycle started, an increase of 5% since 1999 when data collection was first performed
- complications occurred in fewer than 3% of treatment cycles
- only 1-2 embryos were replaced in the uterus in 65% of cycles with embryo transfer
- 68% of pregnancies were singletons
- 91% 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 30%
- for women 40 years old and over, the pregnancy rate was 18%

Live birth rates for cycles started in 2003 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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