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HUMAN ASSISTED REPRODUCTION LIVE BIRTH RATES FOR CANADA

The Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) today released the fifth 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, all 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 8th annual meeting of the Directors of Canadian IVF Centres, held in Montreal, QC, under the auspices of the CFAS.

Live birth rates were reported for 7415 IVF treatment cycles (including intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI)) undertaken in 24 out of 24 IVF centres in 2003:

- The overall live birth rate was 24% per cycle started
- 69% of births were singletons.
- 95% 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 9%.
- The number of babies with congenital anomalies was not different than the natural population.
- The miscarriage rate was 17% per clinical intrauterine pregnancy.

Preliminary results were reported for 7619 IVF treatment cycles (including ICSI) undertaken in 25 out of 26 IVF centres in 2004:

- 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 2% of treatment cycles.

- Only 1-2 embryos were replaced in the uterus in 66% of cycles with embryo transfer.
- 70% of pregnancies were singletons.
- 92% 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 38%
 - for women aged 35-39 years, the pregnancy rate was 30%
 - for women 40 years old and over, the pregnancy rate was 16%.

Live birth rates for assisted reproduction cycles started in 2004 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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