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HUMAN ASSISTED REPRODUCTION LIVE BIRTH RATES FOR CANADA

The Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) today released the sixth 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 CFAS and the IVF Medical Directors of Canada, 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 9th annual meeting of the Directors of Canadian IVF Centres, held in Ottawa, ON, under the auspices of the CFAS.

Live birth rates were reported for a combined total of 7888 IVF treatment cycles (including intracytoplasmic sperm injection [ICSI]) undertaken in all 26 IVF centres in Canada in 2004. There were 2040 IVF/ICSI treatment cycles performed in Western Canada, 4290 cycles in Ontario, 1352 cycles in Quebec, and 206 cycles in Atlantic Canada.

- The overall live birth rate was 24% per cycle started
- 73% 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 32%
 - for women aged 35-39 years, the live birth rate was 22%
 - for women 40 years old and over, the live birth rate was 10%.
- The proportion of babies with congenital anomalies was not different from that in the population of women conceiving naturally.
- The miscarriage rate was 16% per clinical intrauterine pregnancy, which is also in keeping with the overall miscarriage rate for natural conceptions.

Preliminary results were reported for a combined total of 7689 IVF/ICSI treatment cycles undertaken in 23 out of 25 IVF centres in 2005:

- The overall pregnancy rate was 32% per cycle started, an increase of 6 percentage points since 1999 when data collection was first performed.
- Complications occurred in fewer than 2% of treatment cycles.
- 68% of pregnancies were singletons.
- 92% of the multiple pregnancies were twins.
- As expected, the woman's age had a strong influence on pregnancy rate:
 - for women under 35 years old, the pregnancy rate was 39%
 - for women aged 35-39 years, the pregnancy rate was 31%
 - for women 40 years old and over, the pregnancy rate was 19%.

Live birth rates for assisted reproduction cycles started in 2005 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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