



International Federation of Fertility Societies

Fédération internationale des sociétés de fertilité

Federación internacional de las sociedades de fertilidad

Press statement

International Comparisons in Fertility Treatment – statement on research data from International Fertility Clinicians

Statement embargoed for release: Wednesday, October 21, 2009 – 10:00 AM Eastern Time

Comparisons of international data presented at the ASRM meeting in Atlanta on Wednesday shows that better funding and access to assisted reproduction leads to more successful outcomes and greater safety for the mother and child

The original press release is below. Because this work is of international relevance, the International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS) is releasing this supporting statement, which can be used in conjunction with original material.

Speaking for International Federation of Fertility Societies, Professor Ian Cooke (Sheffield, UK) said:

"These are significant findings. This data from this international study shows that providing better funding and easier access to infertility investigation and treatment gives better results. There is more success in countries where access is easier. There are also fewer multiple pregnancies, which means fewer of the health risks and problems which go with these. This clearly shows the benefits that flow from improving access to treatment."

PLEASE MENTION THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FERTILITY SOCIETIES IN ANY STORIES DERIVING FROM THIS STATEMENT

(Apologies for any cross-posting of this statement due to network problems in Atlanta).

Notes for Editors

The International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS) is the main international body representing national societies working in the fields of fertility and contraception. The IFFS has 57 member societies from all parts of the world. Since its founding in 1951, the IFFS has undertaken a wide range of activities to promote the science and clinical practice of fertility at an international level. The next IFFS World Congress will take place in Munich in 2010 (<http://www.iffs2010.com/invitation.html>).

The IFFS can comment on any international issues relating to human fertility. See: <http://www.iffs-reproduction.org/index.html>

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ORIGINAL PRESS RELEASE FROM ASRM

Note: All information is embargoed until the time of presentation at the meeting, unless otherwise indicated.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 65th ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE**

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USA and International Trends in ART – Access and Outcomes

Atlanta, GA - Data released today at the American Society for Reproductive Medicine Annual Meeting in Atlanta compares ART trends in the US with those around the world. Using data collected through the International Committee Monitoring ART (ICMART), investigators examined data from 2000- 2004. They found that delivery rates in the US were stable at 31% while they improved in Europe from 16% to 22%.

The delivery rate was maintained in the US even as the number of embryos transferred declined from 3.0 to 2.7 embryos per transfer, and the US triplet rate was cut in half from 4.3% to 2.6%. Only Sweden saw a marked reduction in its twin rate over the period, going from 21.8% to only 5.6%.

The same investigators used 2004 data to examine how economic factors influence the risk and benefit calculations of patients and physicians. They found that in countries where government provides free access to ART treatment, the utilization rate for those treatments is much higher. For example, in France there were 2,008 cycles for every million inhabitants, while in the US there were only 357 cycles per million people. Improved access not only raises the utilization rate, but changes outcomes, as well. The number of embryos transferred per cycle and the resulting high order multiple births are highest in those countries that do not provide free access.

This relationship was seen within countries, as well. In the USA, individual states with mandatory insurance coverage for IVF treatments saw different results than states without such a mandate. Researchers at the Yale University School of Medicine found that the number of embryos transferred per cycle, cancellation rate, twin rate and multiple live birth rate were all higher in mandated states than in non-mandated ones.

“These studies make it clear that policies that promote access to infertility treatment also promote making those treatments safer and more effective,” stated Elizabeth Ginsburg, MD, President of the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART).

G. David Adamson, MD

O-180 ICMART Report on Global Trends in ART from 2000-2004: How Does the USA Compare?

F. Zegers-Hochschild, MD

O-273 Worldwide Differences in Access to Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Influence Providers'/Consumers' Decisions on the Number of Embryos Transferred, Affecting the Proportion of Multiple Births

J.R. Martin, MD

O-177 Insurance Coverage and IVF Outcomes in USA: Analysis of Recent Trends in Patients Younger than 35 Years Old
