

IN VITRO FERTILIZATION, PERSPECTIVES AND PROBLEMS

Nino Chaduneli

E-mail: nino.chaduneli354@ens.tsu.edu.ge

Division of morphology, faculty of Exact and Natural sciences,

Iv. Javakishvili Tbilisi State University

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Today, in vitro fertilization (IVF) is practically a household word. But not so long ago, it was a mysterious procedure for infertility that produced what were then known as "test-tube babies."

Unlike the simpler process of artificial insemination in which sperm is placed in the uterus and conception happens otherwise normally IVF involves combining eggs and sperm outside the body in a laboratory. Once an embryo or embryos form, they are then placed in the uterus. IVF is a complex and expensive procedure; only about 5% of couples with infertility seek it out.

When it comes to infertility, IVF may be an option for diagnosed: Endometriosis, low sperm counts, problems with the uterus or fallopian tubes, problems with ovulation, antibody problems that harm sperm or eggs, the inability of sperm to penetrate or survive in the cervical mucus, an unexplained fertility problem.

IVF is never the first step in the treatment of infertility. Instead, it's reserved for cases in which other methods such as fertility drugs, surgery, and artificial insemination haven't worked.

Many of the ethical issues in fertility treatment concern on views regarding when life begins. The Catholic Church, for example, believes that life begins at the moment of conception, and only permits the fertilization of eggs that will be used, insisting on the implantation of all viable embryos.

IVF field is developing rapidly, every year new techniques are introduced into the field to raise the chances for infertile couples to conceive. This year in 18 January have been announced that the infertile woman, 34, gives birth to her daughter after undergoing controversial 'three-parent baby' IVF treatment for mitochondrial disease. This was the first time pronuclear transfer had been used to give birth to a child.

Besides the fact that IVF procedures are available worldwide it is still expensive procedure with minor chances of complications and side effects. Hopefully all of the trends in IVF will lead to safer, more efficient, and less costly care.