

Higher chance of twins after IVF for taller women: study

July 4 2011

Taller women who become pregnant after receiving two embryos through in-vitro fertilisation have more chance of giving birth to twins, a Dutch study presented Monday found.

According to Marieke Lambers of the VUMC, Gynaecology Obstetrics and [Reproductive Medicine](#) in Amsterdam and her team, it is the first time that a link has been found between the height of the mother and the probability of multiple births following IVF.

"This is a further step towards the development of tailor-made personalised IVF treatment," she said.

Her team studied 19,840 women from 1983 to 1995. Of those, 6,589 completed their first [IVF cycle](#) and 2,357 received two embryos, which resulted in 371 single births and 125 twin pregnancies.

"When we came to analyse the twin group, we found that a maternal height of over 1.74 m (five feet, nine and a half inches) and more than 11 oocytes [eggs] retrieved were independently associated with twin pregnancies," Lambers said.

"The positive relationship between a higher number of oocytes retrieved and a twin pregnancy probably reflects the fact that these women would have had a larger choice of good-quality embryos. But the association between increased height and [multiple pregnancy](#) is more difficult to explain," she said.

The work was presented Monday at the annual conference of the European Society of [Human Reproduction](#) and Embryology (ESHRE) in Stockholm.

Fertility clinics generally transfer several embryos to the uterus in the hope that one leads to a live birth. [Multiple births](#) are increasingly viewed as a problem by fertility specialists, who point to complications at birth and to problems in child development.

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Citation: Higher chance of twins after IVF for taller women: study (2011, July 4) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2011-07-higher-chance-twins-ivf-taller.html>

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