

Calif. couple conceives rare identical triplets

December 5 2013



Hannah and Tom Hepner of Quincy, parents of identical triplets, hold, from left, Abby, Laurel and Brindabella in a self care room at Sutter Memorial on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013 in Sacramento, Calif. The triplets were born at Sutter Memorial Hospital on Nov. 22, 2013 (AP Photo/The Sacramento Bee, Randy Pench)

Doctors at a Northern California hospital say a couple has given birth to a rare set of naturally conceived identical triplets.

The Sacramento Bee reports Abby, Brin and Laurel Hepner were born

Nov. 22 at Sutter Memorial Hospital to Hannah and Tom Hepner, of Quincy.

The [triplets](#) were produced when a single, fertilized egg split into three.

Dr. William Gilbert, director of Sutter Women's Services, says the odds of producing identical triplets without [fertility drugs](#) range from 1-in-1-million to 1-in-100-million.

He said the rarity makes it difficult to more accurately calculate the frequency of such births.

Abby weighed 3 pounds, 2 ounces; Brin 3 pounds, 11 ounces; and Laurel 4 pounds.



Brindabella holds the finger of her father, Tom Hepner at Sutter Memorial on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013 in Sacramento, Calif. The triplets were born at Sutter Memorial Hospital on November 22, 2013 to proud parents Hannah and Tom

Hepner of Quincy.(AP Photo/The Sacramento Bee, Randy Pench)



Hannah and Tom Hepner of Quincy, parents of identical triplets, hold, from left, Abby, Laurel and Brindabella in a self care room at Sutter Memorial on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013 in Sacramento, Calif. The triplets were born at Sutter Memorial Hospital on Nov. 22, 2013 (AP Photo/The Sacramento Bee, Randy Pench)

The triplets are still in the hospital until they can maintain body temperature and eat properly.

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Citation: Calif. couple conceives rare identical triplets (2013, December 5) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-12-calif-couple-rare-identical-triplets.html>

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