

# Infertility risk posed by endometriosis may be half of previous estimation

May 17 2016

---

About 5 to 10 percent of the general female population is affected with endometriosis, and a higher prevalence is found among women with infertility. Although endometriosis is commonly observed in women who are infertile, it is unknown when endometriosis is the cause of infertility or an incidental discovery during the infertility examination.

"Although women with endometriosis are at greater risk for [infertility](#) compared to women without endometriosis, our study suggests that the majority of women with endometriosis do not experience infertility and the majority do become pregnant and are able to build the families that they desire." said senior study author Stacey A. Missmer, Sc.D, director of Epidemiologic Research in Reproductive Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

In this new study, researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital collected data from 58,427 women who are participants of the Nurses' Health Study-2 to examine the relationship between endometriosis and infertility. Researchers found a higher risk of subsequent infertility in women with endometriosis, but only among women under age 35. According to the study's prospective analysis, the infertility risk posed by endometriosis is about half previous estimates and indicates a possible detection bias in earlier studies. Results are published online in *Human Reproduction*.

"A key step in endometriosis discovery is identifying women with [endometriosis](#) who indeed are at higher risk of infertility so that

treatments can be targeted directly to the biology causing infertility and identifying these [women](#) as early as possible so they can access fertility treatment," Missmer said.

BWH senior author Stacey A. Missmer, Sc.D, director of Epidemiologic Research in Reproductive Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital, is available for interviews upon request.

Provided by Brigham and Women's Hospital

Citation: Infertility risk posed by endometriosis may be half of previous estimation (2016, May 17) retrieved 30 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-05-infertility-posed-endometriosis-previous.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--