

# In vitro fertilization linked with increased risk of spontaneous preterm birth

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A new analysis of published studies found an approximate 80% increased risk of spontaneous preterm birth (both before 37 and 34 weeks) when women become pregnant via in vitro fertilization (IVF) than through spontaneous conception.

The *Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology* analysis included 15 studies with approximately 62,000 patients and about 3800 preterm births events.

"Placental development may play a key role in the pathogenesis of spontaneous preterm birth in IVF pregnancies. We recommend ultrasound cervical screening in this [high risk group](#) in order to apply timely preventive strategies," said lead author Dr. Paolo Cavoretto, of the IRCCS San Raffaele Hospital, in Milan, Italy. "Future research reporting [pregnancy outcomes](#) should always emphasize etiological differentiation of preterm birth."

**More information:** *Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology*, [DOI: 10.1002/uog.18930](#)

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