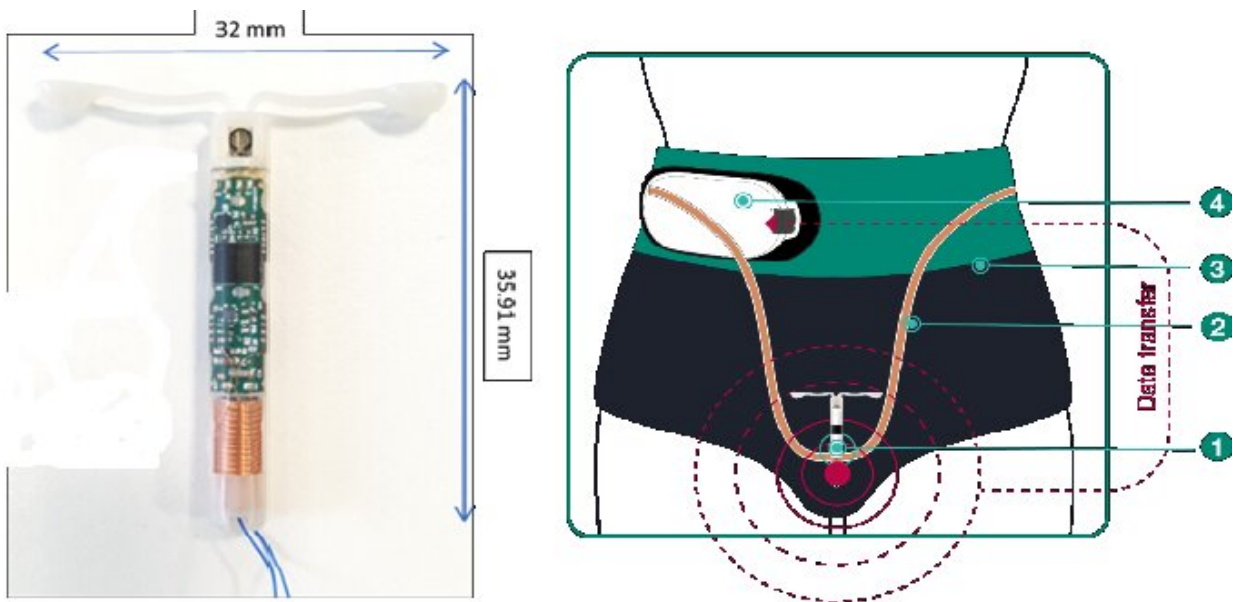


New implant could help women experiencing infertility or recurrent miscarriages

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The device is around the size of a 5p coin. Credit: University of Southampton

Doctors and researchers at the University of Southampton are trialing a novel implant device they have developed that may be offered to women who have problems conceiving or who have recurrent miscarriages.

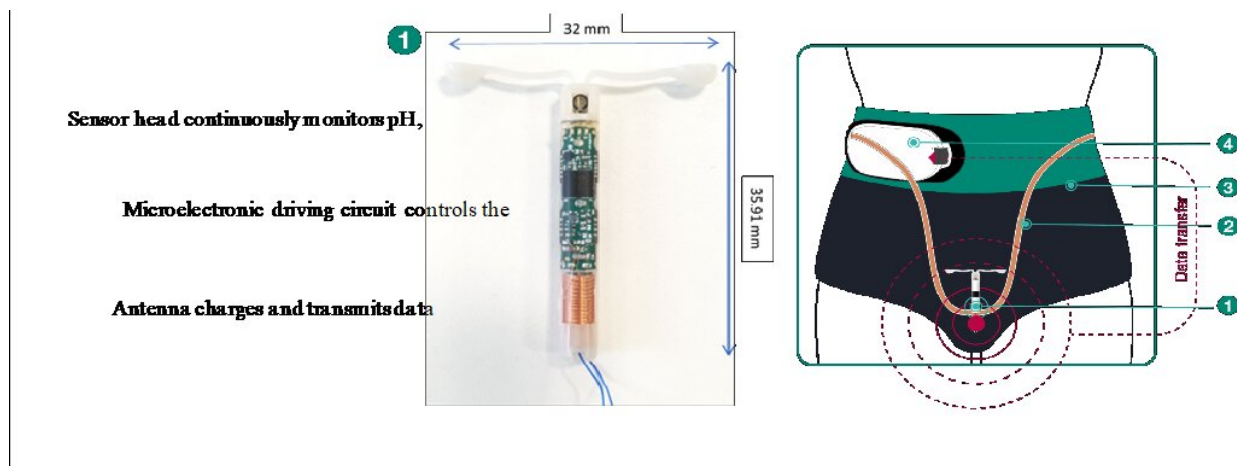
A small [sensor device](#), invented at the University by Professor Ying Cheong, a reproductive medicine specialist, and bioelectronics engineer Professor Hywel Morgan has the potential to monitor the environment

inside the womb and detect any activity that could have an impact on embryo development. The [device](#) is now being developed by Oxford-based women's health company Verso Biosense.

The system consists of three main components: the device, a data receiver, and an undergarment that holds the receiver.

The sensor device is the same shape and size as the contraceptive coil, although it is not a contraceptive, and is inserted into the womb in a clinic.

It then monitors the uterus temperature, dissolved oxygen and pH levels—all features which can affect embryo development—continuously and transmits the data wirelessly to the receiver every 30 minutes. Clinicians would then be able to assess the findings and establish interventions which could help address any anomalies.



The system consists of 3 main components, the IUMD (1), the garment, (3) and the data receiver (4) The IUMD (1) is a sensor device that has the same shape and size as the contraceptive coil (although not a contraceptive) and is inserted

into the womb by the clinician in the clinic. Your doctor will explain the process to you before you are due to have this device inserted. The sensor monitors the uterus temperature, dissolved oxygen and pH levels continuously and transmits the data utilising the aerial (2) to transfer the data to the receiver (4). Credit: University of Southampton

Professor Cheong and her team are currently inviting women to enter into this study. Volunteers must be aged between 18 and 42 and do not need to have a history of infertility or [miscarriages](#).

"Our [team](#) hope that this is the very first step in the better understanding of the womb environment that would lead to better monitoring and treatment of infertility and [recurrent miscarriages](#)," said Professor Cheong.

Provided by University of Southampton

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