

# The Center for Advanced Reproductive Services

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## We're Proud To Announce Our First Births From Frozen Eggs

### One of Select Few IVF Centers to Complete an IRB approved Study on Egg Freezing to Preserve Future Fertility for Women

Here at The Center, we are one of a few select IVF Centers to complete an IRB-approved study on egg freezing to preserve future fertility for women. We have just completed a clinical study to evaluate the efficacy of egg freezing in patients undergoing in-vitro fertilization (IVF). Egg freezing is a new technology that will allow patients the option of storing frozen eggs instead of embryos, eliminating some of the ethical and religious concerns that accompany embryo freezing, storage and disposal.

The research was conducted at The Center by Dr. Claudio Benadiva, Director of the IVF Laboratory, and Linda Siano, Chief Embryologist, and evaluated a method of rapid freezing of eggs called vitrification. According to Dr. Benadiva, "This new technology has the potential to revolutionize the field of reproductive medicine, offering a clinically viable alternative to women seeking to preserve fertility for medical reasons, or who are of reproductive age but simply not ready to start a family."

Patients who volunteered to participate in the study had a portion of their eggs frozen during a process in which eggs are retrieved from a woman's ovaries, frozen in a cryoprotective solution and then thawed. The thawed eggs were then warmed and fertilized with their male partner's sperm through a process called intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), and used to obtain a pregnancy.

In this study, we found positive results, which are being analyzed and reported now. Preliminary data demonstrates a clinical pregnancy rate of 53.8% and a live birth/ongoing pregnancy rate of 46.1%. So far 6 babies (1 set of twins) have been born from frozen eggs to patients who participated in the study.

Joni Stehlik, Operational Laboratory Director at The Center, says that "The results from this study show promise and are very encouraging. We will continue to analyze the data and refine our technique to provide patients with the absolute best chance for success." In her previous position, Ms. Stehlik was responsible for the first birth in the U.S. from a frozen egg utilizing the vitrification technique in 2002.

At the present time, egg freezing is considered experimental by the HYPERLINK "<http://www.asrm.org/>" American Society of Reproductive Medicine. This is in part due to the fact that many centers around the country currently offering egg freezing have had a very low success rate regarding pregnancy. According to Dr. Benadiva, "We plan to begin offering egg freezing as a clinical option to patients sometime in the first half of 2011. We will be one of a select few centers doing so after having demonstrated measureable success under the auspices of an IRB approved clinical trial". Candidates for this new technology will include patients desiring fertility preservation prior to undergoing cancer treatment or for other medical reasons, IVF patients who decline embryo freezing, as well as women seeking elective fertility preservation for other non-medical reasons.

According to the most recent data, it is estimated that close to 900 births have occurred worldwide from egg freezing with about 600 from the past 3 years.

For more information about The Center or for more details on this study's results, please call 860.679.4580 or go to The Center's website at [www.uconnfertility.com](http://www.uconnfertility.com).

Please remember to visit our website at: [www.uconnfertility.com](http://www.uconnfertility.com)