

Women and babies 'put at risk by aggressive IVF'

Aggressive fertility treatments practised at IVF clinics in the UK are putting women and babies at risk, experts say.



IVF may increase the chance of birth defects Photo: ALAMY

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3 Comments (http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/9264560/Women-and-babies-put-at-risk-by-aggressive-IVF.html#disqus_thread)

Unnecessary procedures, high doses of powerful drugs and risky interventions are being employed as couples spend thousands of pounds trying to conceive, it was reported.

Experts say a milder and safer approach to IVF is available that could provide equivalent success rates over a longer period and at a lower cost and the UK is lagging behind in adopting this approach.

Professor Geeta Nargund, head of reproductive medicine at St George's Hospital in south London, voiced her concerns at a conference in Copenhagen.

She said there was increasing evidence that the standard method of IVF used in Britain, which involves stimulating the ovaries with high doses of drugs to produce large numbers of eggs for harvesting, was damaging to women's health and caused chromosomal abnormalities to resulting embryos, a newspaper reported.

Professor Nargund said: "High-dose stimulation can have distressing side effects on the woman, the most serious of which is called ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS).

[Young women having IVF at 'higher risk of breast cancer'](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/9285015/Young-women-having-IVF-treatment-at-higher-risk-of-breast-cancer.html) (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/9285015/Young-women-having-IVF-treatment-at-higher-risk-of-breast-cancer.html>)

[Baby born after 'unique' IVF treatment](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/9051864/Baby-born-after-unique-IVF-treatment.html) (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/9051864/Baby-born-after-unique-IVF-treatment.html>)

[Couple win IVF funding battle with NHS](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/women_health/8965796/Couple-win-IVF-funding-battle-with-NHS.html) (http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/women_health/8965796/Couple-win-IVF-funding-battle-with-NHS.html)

['Birth defect link' to IVF injections](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/9248899/Birth-defect-link-to-IVF-injections.html) (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/9248899/Birth-defect-link-to-IVF-injections.html>)