

Welcome to the February 2012 edition of the Access Australia eNews.

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... also upcoming events and recent news articles of interest to those who have difficulties conceiving.



1. When is enough, enough?

Stopping treatment is one of the most difficult decisions a couple can face together. Often it is much more difficult than the decision to start IVF, which was a time of optimism and expectation. There may have been a gnawing fear deep down that treatment may not work, but this seemed a long way off in the future.

AccessAustralia has a factsheet that looks at this issue. You can find it on the Access web site at:
<http://www.access.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/39.pdf>



2. Angel Babies Foundation

For some, the pain of infertility is only overshadowed by the pain of losing a baby.

One of our newest Access members in the Angel Babies Foundation, a charity set up to provide peer support, grief counselling to individuals and families following the loss of a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal death and support for babies born prematurely or with abnormalities. Peer support counselling, assistance and advice is also provided for couples experiencing infertility and those undergoing Assisted Reproductive Technology and IVF treatment.

They also work closely with nurses and allied health workers to empower them to support those in their care experiencing fertility, pregnancy and infant related anxiety, loss and grief. We support them through their own losses and in the workplace.

Our next grief counselling training course is being held in Sydney in February:
<http://www.angelbabies.org.au/counsellors/counsellors.htm>.

3. Our patron ties the knot!

Our Patron, Candice Reed, was recently married to her partner of seven years, Derek Thum, at Inglewood Estate, Kangaroo Grounds in Victoria.

The couple shared the day with 65 close family and friends, including their one year-old daughter, Delaney Elizabeth who played a key role as flower girl.

It was a relaxed and enjoyable day filled with laughter and tears of joy from both the bride and groom.

"It was the most perfect day," Candice says.

"A very special day to celebrate the love Derek and I have for each other and also the new endless love we share as parents to Delaney."



4. Twin embryos may help each other survive after IVF

A controversial new study suggests that when twin pregnancies are created by in vitro fertilization (IVF), a stronger embryo may help the weaker one to survive.

For the full story:

- http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/45847029/ns/today-today_health/t/do-twin-embryos-help-each-other-survive-ivf/
- <http://www.imperfectparent.com/topics/2012/01/03/twin-embryos-may-help-each-other-survive-after-ivf/>

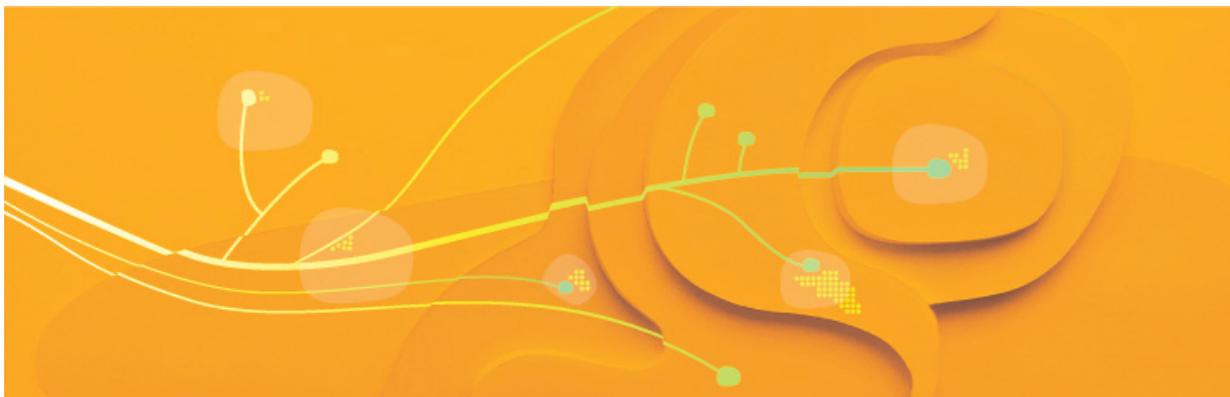


5. Tiny spasms detected in eggs may increase IVF success rate

TINY "heartbeats" within fertilised human eggs could hold the key to more successful IVF treatment and fewer multiple pregnancies, Welsh scientists have found.

Read more: <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/2012/01/04/tiny-spasms-detected-in-eggs-may-increase-ivf-success-rate-91466-30056250/>





6. The case for egg-sharing

In most developed countries women are deferring pregnancy until well into their 30s. In doing so, though, they are raising their risk of infertility, according to **Kamal Ahuja**, fertility specialist and scientific & managing director of The London Women's Clinic.

Many women are willing to use donor eggs in treatment, but latest HFEA figures suggest that a current shortfall in the UK will only get worse. Where are those eggs to come from?

For the full story, please read the New Scientist: <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn21379-the-case-for-eggsharing.html>.



7. Frozen embryo babies heavier and healthier - study

IVF babies born from frozen embryos are heavier and result in longer pregnancies than those born from fresh embryos, research suggests. A study presented at the British Fertility Society annual meeting says transferring frozen embryos may lead to healthier babies.

Read the full story at:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-16430139>
- <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2012/01/06/ivf-babies-heavier-and-healthier-when-embryos-are-frozen-115875-23682710/>.



8. Don't forget to join us on Facebook!

Thanks to those members who've shared their story. If you'd like to share your experience, I'm sure there are other members who will benefit from hearing how you've addressed the issues you've faced ... along with the support of sharing your story in a safe community that understands what you're going through.

This month we've discussed the things people say during a cycle or treatment that actually help and members are finding out more about other groups and supports on Facebook.



If you haven't already connected with us, please visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Access-Australia/139771856113076>. If you have already linked up, please let us know what sort of discussions or information you'd like to have on Facebook.

We realise that infertility can be a very personal time for some, while others enjoy being able to share their experience and learn from others. So what do you want to be able to do? Please let us know at info@access.org.au or simply post!

News articles:

Treatment and infertility issues in the global news in the past month:

- The empty cradle, The Express Tribune, Pakistan
< <http://tribune.com.pk/story/316447/the-empty-cradle/> >
- Motherhood after 40: ethical debate rages over how old is too old to become a mother, Toronto Star, Canada
< <http://www.thestar.com/article/1110159--motherhood-after-40-ethical-debate-rages-over-how-old-is-too-old-to-become-a-mother> >
- Cheaper test to boost IVF chances, Courier Mail, Australia
< <http://www.couriermail.com.au/life/families/cheaper-test-to-boost-ivf-chances/story-e6frer7o-1226232488805> >
- Researches at Boston IVF develop saliva test to replace blood test, NECN, USA
< http://www.necn.com/01/24/12/Researchers-at-Boston-IVF-develop-saliva/landing_health.html >
- Chlamydia: Men at risk of 'hidden disease', stuff.co.nz, New Zealand
< <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/6308264/Chlamydia-Men-at-risk-of-hidden-disease> >
- Researchers at Boston IVF develop saliva test to replace blood test, NECN, USA
< http://www.necn.com/01/24/12/Researchers-at-Boston-IVF-develop-saliva/landing_health.html >
- Fibroids are likely to be the cause of infertility in about two or three per cent of woman, Nassau Guardian, Nassau
< http://www.thenassauguardian.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=22327&Itemid=56 >
- Researchers link Roundup to male infertility, eNews Park Forest, USA
< <http://www.enevspf.com/latest-news/science-a-environmental/30325-researchers-link-roundup-to-male-infertility.html> >
- Artificial testicle could make sperm for infertile men, ABC News, USA
< <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/health/2012/01/19/artificial-testicle-could-make-sperm-for-infertile-men/> >

Please note: all external links were operational at the time of publishing.



Australia's National Infertility Network

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