



## Did you know?

...that female causes of infertility may increase the risk of preterm birth and low birth weight following *in vitro* fertilisation (IVF)?

**Female and male causes of infertility were compared with unexplained infertility using data from over 635,000 IVF with or without (±) intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) cycles\*<sup>1</sup>**

### Perinatal outcomes in singleton live births

	Preterm birth <37 weeks' gestation		Low birth weight <2,500 g	
	INCIDENCE	ADJUSTED ODDS RATIO VS UNEXPLAINED INFERTILITY <sup>†</sup>	INCIDENCE	ADJUSTED ODDS RATIO VS UNEXPLAINED INFERTILITY <sup>†</sup>
<i>Male causes</i>	8.1%	1.01 (99.5% CI: 0.93–1.10)	7.8%	0.94 (99.5% CI: 0.87–1.03)
<i>Female causes</i>				
- Endometriosis	9.8%	1.17 <sup>‡</sup> (99.5% CI: 1.01–1.35)	9.3%	1.11 (99.5% CI: 0.96–1.30)
- Tubal disorders	10.5%	1.25 <sup>‡</sup> (99.5% CI: 1.14–1.38)	9.4%	1.12 <sup>‡</sup> (99.5% CI: 1.02–1.23)
- Ovulatory disorders	10.8%	1.31 <sup>‡</sup> (99.5% CI: 1.17–1.46)	10.5%	1.29 <sup>‡</sup> (99.5% CI: 1.16–1.44)

\*data from the UK Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA); <sup>†</sup>adjusted for confounding factors: female age category, duration of treatment, previous live birth (yes or no), IVF or ICSI, number of embryos transferred and fresh or frozen embryo transfer cycles; <sup>‡</sup>significant difference vs unexplained infertility.

**Female infertility, particularly ovulatory disorders, was associated with an increased risk of adverse perinatal outcomes following autologous IVF ± ICSI cycles compared with unexplained infertility<sup>1</sup>**

Although the analysis was adjusted for several important confounding factors, there was no information on the medical history of women during pregnancy to allow for adjustment.

ART, assisted reproductive technology; CI, confidence interval; ICSI, intracytoplasmic sperm injection; IVF, *in vitro* fertilisation.

1. Sunkara SK *et al. Hum Reprod* 2021;36(3):676–82.

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