

# IVF Questions and Answers

by Jim Canvin

The fundamental principle to consider the morality of IVF is that any reproductive technique that replaces the conjugal act undermines the meaning of conjugal union, and is therefore an affront to human dignity and the sacred institution of marriage.

## **How much does IVF cost?**

The average cost for one IVF cycle in the U.S. ranges from \$12,000 to \$15,000, but can exceed \$30,000 with medications and testing. Factors like the need for donor eggs or sperm, genetic testing, and the number of cycles can significantly impact the total cost.

## **How much money does the Global IVF market generate?**

A recent report valued the global IVF market for 2022 at 22.9 billion, with an expected growth rate of 5.5% per year and is projected to reach 39.12 billion by 2032.

## **How many embryos are usually transferred in an IVF transfer?**

In the past 2-6 embryos were transferred to give a better chance for at least 1 to implant in the uterine lining. However this lead to twins, triplets, and more. Current guidelines in the US usually limit to 1 at a time in younger women and up to 4 in older women.

## **How many eggs are collected at one time and how many embryos survive?**

The IVF industry likes to collect up to 15 eggs and the usual practice is to fertilize all eggs at once, then there will be extra embryos. Current estimates for numbers of embryos destroyed, discarded, or frozen under usual IVF practices range from 90-98%.

## **How many babies have been born through IVF and how many did not survive?**

Between 1978 and 2022 there have been 12 million births. Those 12 million live-born IVF babies are the lone survivors of at least 120 million embryos originally created and at least 108 million embryos met their demise. Most clinics do not report the number of embryos they freeze and there are now estimates that 1.5 million embryos are in freezers in the US.

## **Can IVF be dangerous for the mother?**

Yes, the over-stimulation of ovarian production to collect multiple eggs in one cycle can lead to fluid accumulation in the abdomen as well as the chest cavity, and cause pain, require hospitalization, and result in renal failure, potential future infertility, and even death. There is also concern that the over-stimulation may increase the risk for breast cancer.

## **What about infertile couples who desperately want a child?**

IVF turns children into commodities. When a couple undergoes IVF, they're saying, "We want a child no matter what," and the child becomes an object. This evolves into a selective mentality, whereby couples choose the kind of child they want. Above all, a child is a gift from God and cooperating with God's plan for procreation ensures that all children are accepted as gifts.

## **Is Natural Cycle IVF okay?**

IVF is wrong because it separates human procreation from conjugal union. Couples make themselves the masters of a human being's life instead of its stewards. Because the human person is a unity of

body and spirit, both the unitive and procreative meanings of the conjugal act must be expressed spiritually and physically. Then a couple participates in God's creative act instead of dominating it.