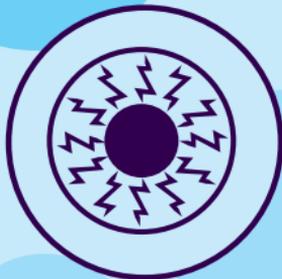


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# IVF Debate

*Dr Jean Francis*



I have been working as an IVF doctor for 20 years. I have met many childless couples throughout my career, many of them would have no hope of having a child if it wasn't for IVF. I have seen the joy that having a child has brought them. Infertility is not a choice and they deserve the chance to have a baby.

**My IVF fact:** The first course of IVF was used in 1978 and around 12,000 children are born in the UK through IVF every year.

**My IVF issue:** The NHS exists to assist in quality of life, not just basic healthcare.

**My IVF question:** If we have technology that can make so many people happy why don't we use it?

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# IVF Debate

**Isobel Lewis**



How can people think of having IVF? IVF produces more embryos than a couple need and the ones that aren't used are destroyed. An embryo is the beginning of a life and destroying it is the same as murder. Why do people feel they have a right to do this?

**My IVF fact:** Each round of IVF could create up to 10 embryos. These are frozen for future use or destroyed. Roughly 1,200,000 embryos created between 1991 and 2005 were destroyed.

**My IVF issue:** I believe life begins when the sperm and egg meet.

**My IVF question:** How can you justify destroying an embryo? When do you think life begins?

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# IVF Debate

**Dai Morris**



I am one of the first children to be born thanks to IVF. My parents tried for years to have children, but they weren't successful. If it were not for IVF I wouldn't have been born. I am now a teacher.

**IVF fact:** Birth rates in Britain are falling, and with an increasing elderly population we need more young people to support the economy.

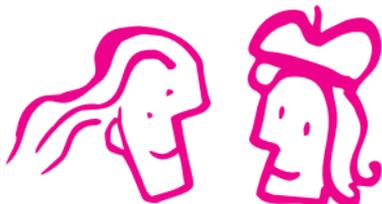
**IVF issue:** You don't know what the future will hold for children. You can't deny people the opportunity to pass on their genes.

**IVF question:** Don't you think it's better to spend money to invest in our future?

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# IVF Debate

**Marie and Sally Osborne**



We have been together for 10 years and are very happy but would love to have a child. We have tried artificial insemination using donor sperm, which didn't work, and considered adoption, but we really want a baby of our own. With IVF we might be able to use one of our eggs and have a child of our own.

**Our IVF fact:** A change in the law in 2007 removed the 'need for a father' in any applications for IVF. This has meant that same sex couples are not discriminated against as much for IVF applications.

**Our IVF issue:** Heterosexual couples have children unintentionally, but we have no chance without IVF.

**Our IVF question:** We love each other just like any other couple. Would you treat us differently if we were straight?

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# IVF Debate

**Sally Robbins**



I work in a children's home with children whose birth families are not able to bring them up. Many of them have had very stressful lives with no stability. Instead of using IVF, people should adopt and give these children a permanent family who will care for them and help them thrive.

**IVF fact:** 80,000 children are in care in the UK alone.

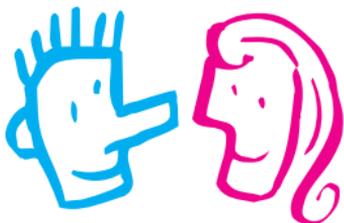
**IVF issue:** Many of these children will grow up not knowing what it's like to have the stable support of a loving family, through no fault of their own.

**IVF question:** Wouldn't you like to give your love to a child who really needs it?

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# IVF Debate

**Bekele and  
Alison Sissoko**



We are a married couple in our mid thirties. We are both from large families and have been trying for a baby for 10 years. We desperately want children of our own. We are hopeful that with IVF we could have a child, but we don't earn enough to pay for a course of IVF by ourselves.

**Our IVF fact:** A course of IVF costs around £2,500 and in most areas of the UK couples that don't already have children can get 1 cycle of IVF paid for by the NHS.

**Our IVF issue:** We have paid more than enough tax into the NHS over the years to pay for a course of treatment. It's only fair if we get one.

**Our IVF question:** Why should only rich people be able to have children by IVF?

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# IVF Debate

**Dr Sudha Tripathi**



There is growing evidence that children born through IVF have more health problems than children born through normal methods. And I treat many women who suffer a potentially fatal condition called Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome (OHSS), caused by fertility drugs used in IVF. We really need more long-term studies into IVF to find out more about it.

**IVF fact:** One study showed that children born through IVF spent almost twice as long in hospital as naturally conceived children.

**IVF issue:** It's not responsible to give people a treatment for which there is very little long-term evidence.

**IVF question:** Is it fair that treatment, that has little long term evidence of safety, is given out free to people who may not weigh up the evidence properly?

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# IVF Debate

**John Wilson**



IVF is such a waste of the NHS budget. I have a disease called Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration, which is slowly making me blind. There are drugs to treat this disease but I am one of 15,000 people who can't get treatment on the NHS because it is too expensive. I'm going blind and there's nothing I can do about it.

**My IVF fact:** Guidelines say that the NHS should pay for up to 3 cycles of IVF for anyone between the ages of 23 and 39 without children. That could be a total of £7,500 per couple who want IVF.

**My IVF issue:** Having a child is a choice but I don't choose to be ill. The money should go to people that really deserve it.

**My IVF question:** Isn't it better to stop people suffering than to help people have children?

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