

focus on REPRODUCTION



The IUI revival

in unexplained
infertility

- Highlights from Geneva
- ESHRE news
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Spain now Europe's most active country in ART

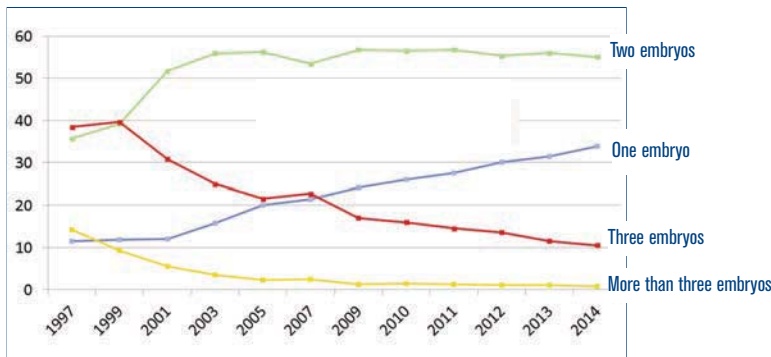
- Preliminary results reported for 2014
- Pregnancy rates steady at around 28%
- Big increase in frozen embryo transfers
- 8 million cycles monitored since EIM formation



EIM Chairman Carlos Calhaz-Jorge: Success rates have now been generally stable since 2008.

THE NEXT INSTALMENT of data from ESHRE's European IVF Monitoring (EIM) Consortium - preliminary results of activity in 2014 - shows a slow increase in the number of cycles reported (though lacking data from the UK), a steady record of success in IVF and ICSI, and a slight increase in pregnancy rate in frozen transfers and egg donation.

Carlos Calhaz-Jorge, chairman of the EIM Consortium, said there had been an increase in total numbers of treatment cycles of 3% from 2013, a rise mainly attributed to enhanced registry requirements



Number of embryos transferred in IVF and ICSI - % per year.

80% OF EUROPEAN CYCLES NOW MONITORED

ESHRE's EIM Consortium is now in its 20th year and has reached the remarkable data milestone of more than 8 million cycles monitored and 1.454 million babies recorded. In 2014 alone the Consortium's coverage was derived from 36 countries, 1184 treatment centres, 707,171 cycles monitored (without the UK), and 146,232 babies born. 'Numbers are going up every year,' said EIM chairman Calhaz-Jorge, noting that the total number of cycles submitted for 2014 increased by 3% over 2013. The number of egg donation treatments increased by 33% over 2013 (to 52,950).

in Spain and Russia. As a result, Spain was the most active European country in ART (with almost 110,000 cycles reported), followed by Russia (95,000 cycles) and France (90,000 cycles). Mainly because of its particularly wide use in Spain, frozen embryo replacements and egg donation cycles were also seen to increase significantly, egg donation up 33% on the previous year and FER up 15%. EIM estimated that in 2014 almost 6% of all IVF/ICSI cycles were freeze-all.

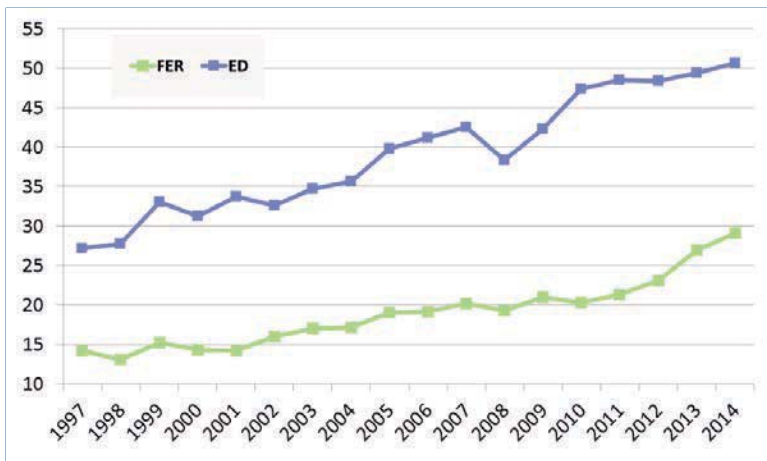
The report covered a total of 707,171 treatment cycles performed in 2014 and 146,232 babies born - representing around 80% of all European treatments, and thus the largest and most accurate snapshot of ART in Europe.

The data collection and monitoring of ESHRE's EIM Consortium have grown more complex with the progress of ART. IUI was added to the techniques monitored in 2002, while present data collections must include PGD, IVM, and frozen oocyte replacements. Data for 2014 were submitted from EIM members via a new online data collection system which is considered simpler than the previous time-consuming paper version. The current requirement is based on eight data modules comprising ten pages and 20 tables.

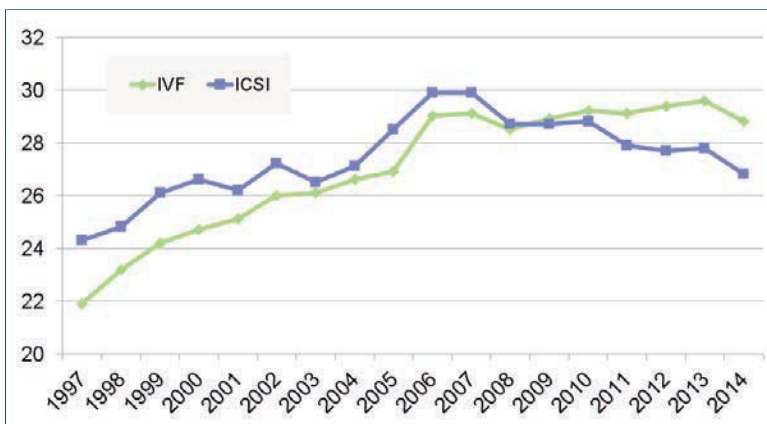
'Numbers are going up every year,' said Calhaz-Jorge, noting that the total number of cycles submitted to the Consortium for 2014 increased by 3% over the previous year, meaning that the Consortium has monitored a cumulative total of almost 8 million cycles since its formation in 1997 and 1.45 million children born.

EIM is now in its 20th year and among the trends identified over this period Calhaz-Jorge noted an increase in SET (from 11% in 1997 to almost 35% in 2014), a major decrease in triplet rates (from 3.8 in 1999 to 0.5% in 2014), improving success rates from frozen embryo transfers, but a general stabilisation of

Steering committee of the EIM Consortium pictured in Geneva. From left, Edgar Mocanu, Tatjana Motrenko representing ESHRE's ExCo, former Chairman Markus Kupka, Christine Wyns, Karin Erb, Jesper Smeenk, Jacques de Mouzon, Chairman Elect Christian de Geyter, Giulia Scaravelli, Chairman Carlos Calhaz-Jorge, and ESHRE Science Manager Veerle Goossens.



% pregnancy rates per thawing and per ET with FER and egg donation.



% pregnancy rates per aspiration with IVF and ICSI, the former more successful.

pregnancy rates in IVF and ICSI (after a steady rise to 2005). Also stable is the number of two-embryo transfers (at around 55% of all ETs); the increase in SETs seems to be from the decline in three-embryo and higher ETs, said Calhaz-Jorge.

The distribution of IVF and ICSI remains much in favour of ICSI, despite EIM evidence in 2014 of a slightly higher pregnancy rate per aspiration from IVF (28.9%) than from ICSI (26.8%). Nationally, Macedonia recorded the highest pregnancy rate per aspiration (53.1), though local results were, as always, extremely varied.

Similarly, Denmark, Belgium and Czech Republic had the greatest provision of ART in 2014, with more than 2500 cycles of IVF/ICSI per million population. Active countries such as France, Netherlands and UK were each below 1000 cycles per million. A health economics report in 2002 put the 'global need' for ART' at 1500 cycles per million.

The highest ART pregnancy and delivery rates are now seen in egg donation, either fresh or as embryo transfers from cryopreserved oocytes. Pregnancy rates (per ET) from frozen donor eggs (49%) are higher than from frozen embryos and around the same as from fresh donor eggs (51%).

'Generally, success rates seem to have stabilised, although outcome in egg donation and with use of frozen embryos is still moving upwards,' said Calhaz-Jorge. 'The biggest upwards movement, however, is from treatments with frozen eggs, which have been revolutionised by the widespread introduction of vitrification.'

Among the complications of treatment OHSS remains the most frequent, at a rate of 0.3%.