

focus on REPRODUCTION



Much ado about Munich

Embryo selection still tops the agenda

- Look ahead to Lisbon
- ESHRE news
- HR editor on misconduct in scientific publishing

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1 million babies now in ESHRE database

- European multiple delivery rate falls yet again to 19.4%
- More than 600,000 cycles now monitored per year

ESHRE's European IVF Monitoring (EIM)

Consortium has now been active for over 15 years and has reached the remarkable data milestone of more than 1 million babies recorded. The Consortium is presently evaluating around 600,000 cycles a year in an ever escalating total of European ART activity. In 1997, the first year of EIM analysis, just 482 clinics in 18 countries were represented in 203,225 cycles of IVF and ICSI; in 2011, the year described provisionally by EIM Chairman Markus Kupka in Munich, 1034 clinics in 33 countries were represented.

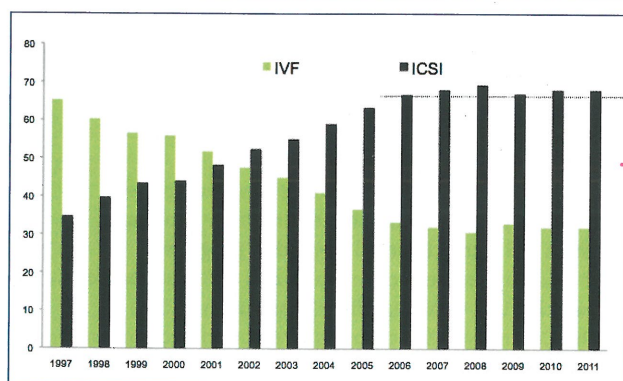
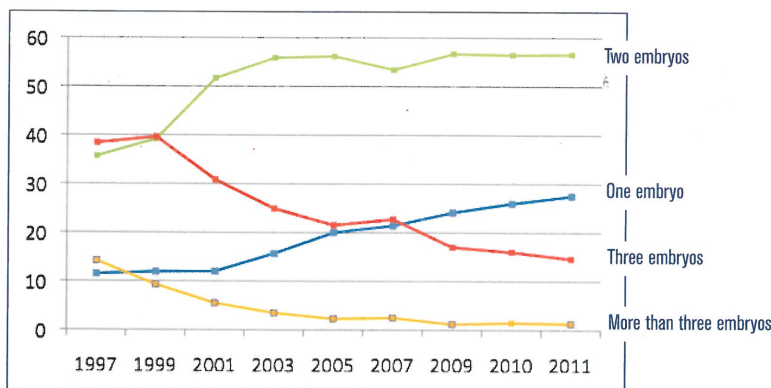
The profile of the cycles, as well as their number, has also changed. Now, ICSI still dominates treatment, with almost 300,000 cycles, but frozen embryo transfers, egg donation and IUI all represent considerable activity. Frozen cycles in 2011 were almost as frequent as fresh IVF cycles (120,032 FER vs 137,621 IVF).

Twenty-five of the 33 countries reporting data to the EIM for 2011 have been reporting every year since

EIM Chairman Markus Kupka: confident that EIM data represents around 90% of all European ART activity.



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



The preference for ICSI over IVF has levelled off since 2006.

2006 and only two countries, Malta and Slovakia, have never contributed. Fourteen countries, including Ireland, Austria, Turkey and Cyprus, are only occasional contributors, but nevertheless Kupka was confident that EIM data now represents around 90% of European ART. The most active countries are France (85,433 cycles in 2011), Germany (67,596 cycles), Italy (63,777 cycles), Spain (63,120 cycles), UK (59,807 cycles) and Russia (56,253 cycles). 'And we're trying to get back Turkey,' said Kupka.

The headlines from Kupka's review of 2011 were that multiple delivery rates continue to decline and that pregnancy rates continue to rise (albeit slowly). Multiple delivery has now fallen to 19.4% - from a high of 29.5% in 1997 - mainly comprising twins: triplet deliveries are now below 1%. The majority of transfers remain two embryos (around 58%), but the proportion of single embryo transfers continues to rise, to almost 30% in 2011. The number of three embryo transfers is down considerably and now at around 15%, with Greece, Lithuania, Serbia and Moldova the main contributors.

Pregnancy rate per aspiration was 29.1% for IVF and 26.8% for ICSI, a divergence in success which has been apparent for the past two years - while average pregnancy rate per transfer has risen from 26% in 1997 to 32.1%. Pregnancy rates from frozen cycles continue to improve - from 14.1% in 1997 to 21.4% in

	1997	2001	2008	2009	2010	2011
IVF	21.9%	25.1%	28.5%	28.8%	29.2%	29.1%
ICSI	24.3%	26.2%	28.7%	28.7%	28.8%	26.8%
FER	14.1%	14.3%	19.3%	21.0%	20.3%	21.4%
ED	-	30.8%	38.3%	42.2%	47.4%	47.6%

Pregnancy rates per aspiration 1997-2011.



Members of the EIM Consortium. Top row, left to right: Dmitry Kissin (USA observer), Klaus Bühler (Germany), Thomas D'Hooghe (Chair Elect, Belgium)), Ladislav Marsik (Slovakia), Jacques De Mouzon (ESHRE Executive Committee guest, France), Dimitri Loutradis (Greece), Jesper Smeenk (Netherlands), Tomaz Tomazevic (Slovenia), Gurkan Arikan (Turkey), José Antonio Castilla (Steering Committee, Spain), Carlos Calhaz-Jorge (Steering Committee, Portugal), Janos Urbancsek (Hungary), Dominique Royère (France), Andreas Tandles-Schneider (Germany), Basil Tarlatzis (Greece), Christian de Geyter (Steering Committee, Switzerland), Michael Pelekanos (Cyprus), Nebosja Radunovic (Serbia), Hilmar Bjorgvinsson (Iceland). Seated, left to right: Vladislav Korsak (Russia), Veerle Goossens (ESHRE, Belgium), Josephine Lemmen (Denmark), Giulia Scaravelli (Italy), Markus Kupka (Chairman, Germany), Anna-Pia Ferraretti (Past Chair, Italy), Christine Wijns (Belgium), Oleg Tishkevich (Belarus). Missing from the picture is Steering Committee member Karin Erb (Denmark)

2011, an improvement reflected in the ever increasing use of FER. Results with UII remain modest, and much dependent on patient age.

Stark differences in national availability persist, with many countries operating below the 1500 cycles per million population threshold defined as the global need for ART. Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Slovenia and Sweden continued their high rates of availability, each with more than 2000 cycles per million population - and each no doubt reflecting generous state reimbursement schemes. UK and the Netherlands each had low rates of around 1000 cycles per million.

Such huge contributions of data present a considerable task to the Consortium and Kupka

announced in Munich that a revised IT system is now being considered for more efficient data monitoring.

'We're trying to speed up the process,' said Kupka, 'but it's hard work.' Publications of the annual reports are now running around four years behind the year in question, and a speedier process is now a priority.

● The EIM Consortium will hold a two-day meeting in November in Leuven, Belgium. The first day, 14 November, will be for Consortium members only, but the second, on 15 November, will be an open day arranged with the SIGs Socio-cultural aspects of (in)fertility, Ethics & Law, and Safety & Quality in ART. The theme, as Churchill himself warned, is 'to look at the facts, because they look at you'.

JAPAN NOW THE MOST PROLIFIC ART NATION ACCORDING TO LATEST WORLD REPORT

Japan is now the world's most prolific ART nation, according to the latest results from ICMART. David Adamson, pictured right, reviewing provisional world activity in Munich for 2010, said that around one-fifth of the world's 1.2 million reported ART cycles were now performed in Japan (241,089). However, despite 137,551 cycles from the USA, Europe still leads the way in ART, with around 50% of all cycles recorded. Among the notable trends was a freeze-all embryo policy in Japan, where 38,500 of 42,500 cycles

reported globally were without transfer.

The 1,170,358 global cycles monitored from 2010 by ICMART led to 224,826 deliveries. In Adamson's estimation this was a representation of around 70% of all activity, thus suggesting an ART total of around 1.9 million cycles per year and 400,000 babies born. Overall average delivery rate was 21.1% per aspiration and a cumulative rate of 26.8%, described by Adamson as 'stable'.

It is fair to assume, he said, that 5.4 million babies have been born since the first in 1978.

