Abnormal Fertility Test Results Linked to Increased Miscarriage Rates and Decreased IVF Success Rates, Says Advanced Fertility Center of Chicago Research

Clinical research by Chicago-area infertility specialist Todd Deutch, MD, shows there may be a link between abnormal fertility test results and high miscarriage rates in women age 35 and older undergoing in vitro fertilization treatment.

Chicago, Illinois (PRWEB) December 8, 2010 — Women age 35 and older with abnormal fertility test results may have a higher risk of pregnancy loss and a lower overall chance of success when undergoing in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment. This finding is based on a new clinical study conducted by the Advanced Fertility Center of Chicago (AFCC).

AFCC reproductive endocrinologist and infertility specialist Todd Deutch, MD, was chosen to present his research at the 2010 annual meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine in Denver.

“When women are born their ovaries contain all of the eggs they will ever have. As women age the number of eggs decreases until the age of menopause, when only a very few remain,” Dr. Deutch explains. “Every woman loses their eggs at a different rate. Therefore it is important to get an idea of how many eggs remain. We use ovarian reserve tests to measure how many eggs a woman has left.”

AFCC’s clinical study looked at the outcomes of two ovarian reserve tests: day-3 follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) level and the antral follicle count (AFC).

“In 2009, we researched the success rates of women age 35 and under who had abnormal ovarian reserve test results,” says Dr. Deutch. “We were surprised to find that younger women with abnormal ovarian reserve tests were at increased risk for miscarriage.” That study drew media attention from as far away as England and Australia.

“The results of our 2009 research led us to study this phenomenon in women age 35 and older,”” Dr. Deutch explains. “Our objective was to evaluate the relationship between abnormal ovarian reserve test results and the risk of miscarriage. Pregnancy loss or miscarriage was defined as any loss that occurred after a positive pregnancy test. We also studied the correlation between IVF live birth success rates and ovarian reserve test results in this age group.

“In our research, we looked at 1,147 IVF cycles in women age 35 and older,” says Dr. Deutch. “We divided the subjects into four groups: those with normal FSH and AFC counts; those with abnormal FSH; those with abnormal AFC, and those with both abnormal FSH and AFC counts.

“Our study showed that pregnancy loss rates were significantly higher in women with abnormal FSH levels,” he says. “Women with abnormal FSH levels were almost twice as likely to have their pregnancies end in miscarriage then women with normal FSH and AFC levels.

“We also studied the women’s live birth/ongoing pregnancy rate, which is a combined statistic including patients who have either delivered or are far enough along in their pregnancy for us to detect a fetal heartbeat,”
Dr. Deutch explains.

“The live birth/ongoing pregnancy rate in IVF patients age 35 and older was 40% if both the FSH and AFC test scores were normal,” he notes. “Women with an abnormal FSH level had a 19.9% live birth/ongoing pregnancy rate and those with an abnormal AFC test had a 24.2% rate. If both tests were abnormal, the live birth/ongoing pregnancy rate was only 18.8%.

“More studies with larger groups of women are needed to more accurately determine the relationship between abnormal ovarian reserve tests and pregnancy loss,” Dr. Deutch concludes.

“Women with abnormal ovarian reserve tests should be informed that they may be at high risk for having a miscarriage and have a decreased chance of becoming pregnant with IVF treatment.” advises Dr. Deutch. “However, women with an abnormal FSH and/or AFC should not be denied IVF treatment based solely on these findings because there is still a reasonable chance of having a live birth.”

The Advanced Fertility Center of Chicago, with offices in Gurnee and Crystal Lake, Illinois, offers advanced reproductive technology services that attract patients from around the world. [IVF pricing](#) and egg donation pricing plans are available with a 100% money-back guarantee.

The Center’s web site, [www.advancedfertility.com](http://www.advancedfertility.com), offers more than 250 articles on fertility issues and IVF.

To schedule an appointment at the Gurnee office, call 847.662.1818.
For an appointment at the Crystal Lake office, call 815.356.1818.

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