

My wife and I were married on August 11<sup>th</sup> 1989. At that time she decided that she did not want to start a family and that she would go onto birth control tablets.

In November/December of that year my wife said that she had changed her mind and would like to get pregnant. She stopped taking birth control tablets after one cycle and we got all excited when she didn't have her period the very next cycle.

After about a month or two of waiting and testing we realised that something might be wrong and went to our local doctor and talked to her. She said that we needed to have a year of no conceptions before she could do any thing. So for the next year we just kept on trying and having no success.

In late 1990 we were given a referral to see an infertility specialist. He put us on Clomid tablets at first, in the hope that our problem was minor and just needed a nudge. No such luck, from memory my wife ended up taking the strongest dosage and it didn't even nudge her hormones.

The next step was to go onto gonadotropin injections; these were nasty things, as they had to be delivered with a large needle as an intramuscular injection. We had some success with his drug but it did cause some problems. The first and major problem was that my wife was not responding to the drug so we were instructed to increase the dosage, not a good move. She had a hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS) reaction and we had to stop the gonadotropin injections and the cycle. We were recommended from the doctors that she should have a couple of months off the program to let her ovaries settle down. It wasn't until a number of months later that we found out that my wife had developed type 2 diabetes required medication. I personally feel that hyperstimulation syndrome incident that she suffered was the cause of it.

Once she was diagnosed with diabetes we were requested to get this under control before we started back on the program. This took a couple of months or more to get under control, as the doctors needed to find out the best medication for her diabetes. Once it was under control we started back on the program and went through one or two cycle without incident and without conceptions. One of the annoying things that I found was that the nurse would not let more than one follicle for during any treatment. I had indicated that we were happy with multiple follicles but they were not.

It was about 1993 or 1994 when we had gone through a number of cycles with no success and decided to give it up for a while. My wife decided to go to Fiji for a holiday to help her relax and visit her mum and dad. While she was there she had some spotting from what we thought was a recent Ovulation Induction Cycle, so she didn't worry about and waited until she got home. When she did get home she decided to go to the doctors, as she was not feeling the best. During the visit she found that she was pregnant and that it had been conceived prior to or while she was in Fiji. I remember that time reasonably well, as soon as we found out that she was pregnant we went for ultrasounds and saw that there was a foetus present and that it was healthy. After a couple more weeks we went back for another ultrasound and found that the fetes had died and that Padma would require a D&C (dilatation and curettage) to remove the placenta.

This was a sad time for us as the fetus had made it to 12 to 14 weeks so we didn't even find out the sex of it. After this we decided to give the program a bit of a rest for a while, which eventually turned into a year or more.

Around early 1995 we decided to go back onto the program and give it another try this time with IVF as we had had no real success with Ovulation Induction. Before we were allowed to go back on the program our IVF doctor requested that we determine if my wife's tubes were functioning correctly. He called it a HSG, and it indicated that one of her tubes was blocked. I remember the day as she told of a gruesome test in which they plugged her vagina with a device and forced X-ray dye in at pressure to see which tubes would let it pass. She described it as having a bike pump at high pressure, and that it was extremely uncomfortable.

Late 1995 we undertook an IVF cycle, which harvested 6 eggs and attempted to fertilize them. There was no fertilization of any of the eggs and we were recommended to go onto a more expensive program in which the sperms are forced into the egg. At that mention we decided to give up the program for a while to emotionally and physically relax.

About August of 1996 my wife went to the doctors as she felt a little funny and had a pregnancy check. She found that she was 6 weeks from a natural conception. We were so excited and worried as we had lost one in 1994 so we were apprehensive about our chances. We had ultrasounds to keep an eye on it and found out that it was healthy. We got all the way to 20 weeks and at that time had found out that it was a boy, and that he was doing fine. At about week 21 my wife started to have cramping and we contacted the hospital, who advised that it was most probably Braxton Hicks contractions and not to worry about it. Not a good move, she was having the contraction during the night, and as she said, "I didn't know what Labour pains were" so she didn't know that she was in Labour. By the morning we went to the hospital as she was bleeding and they said that she had dilated and would lose the baby. There was no chance to save it at this late stage. Our son was born on 23/11/1996 at 1:17 in the morning. I remember holding him in my arms until he died, it was such a sad time for both my wife and I.

We went off the program from then until Padma found out that Pushpa was pregnant with Arman, and Sunny was Pregnant with Nathan. This was about August 2000, so we made an appointment with our specialist and started the ball rolling for yet another try. The treatment worked and we ended up with twins, but had to spend the last 4 months of the pregnancy in hospital.

(B. W. Vic)