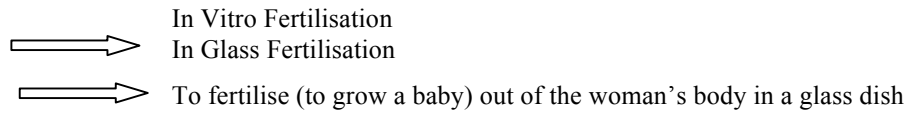


I AM LOVED!

This presentation is about where I came from and where other babies came from too. It's about the I.V.F. program.

This is what I.V.F means:



To make a baby an ovum (egg) – from a woman - and a sperm (seed) – from a man - are needed. When it has not been possible for a couple to make a baby, both the man and woman can have many medical tests to see why. Sometimes these tests and their results can take many many months and even years before the doctors can decide if I.V.F would help.

To be able to get onto the I.V.F program (in Melbourne) the local doctor has to send a letter to a doctor who knows a lot about “infertility” (not being able to make a baby).

Even when the special doctor sees the people it can take a long time to know what the problem is and if I.V.F can help. If the doctor thinks this might work by this time there are a lot of people waiting to be accepted on the program. When the list gets shorter, well the real waiting gets longer.

Sometimes, a woman's eggs just aren't able to join together with a sperm while inside her body for lots of different reasons.

Also the man can have sperm which is not normal. It can be very slow moving or not good enough and can be deformed.

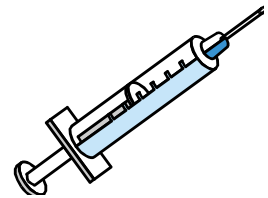
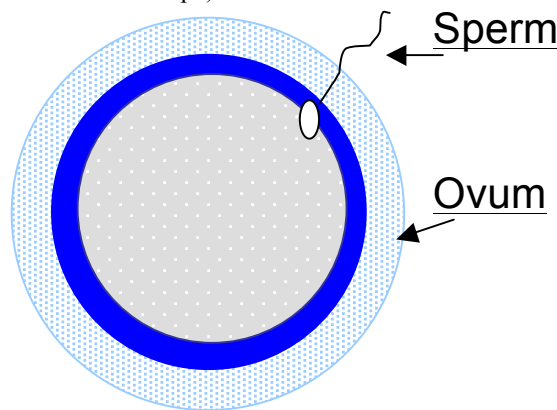
There are many tests with lots of needles that can put things into the blood and some needles take out some blood for testing.

Doctors can sometimes help here, too.

The doctors give the woman injections of ‘hormones’ (these are usually produced by the woman but sometimes not enough) to help her make more than one egg in her ovaries. The good eggs are then taken out of the woman's body and put into a small glass dish.

Next, some sperm are also put into the dish. Everyone involved waits and hopes that a sperm and an egg will meet and join together to form an embryo (the beginning of a baby). If they meet, the embryo is then put into the woman's body to grow. (At this stage the embryo is too small for anyone to see without a microscope).

This is called I.V.F



Sometimes, lots of eggs are made. When this happens, these eggs can be frozen and kept safe until a later time when they can be given a chance to be fertilised and used at another time to grow inside the woman's body. Sometimes more than one embryo is put back and more than one baby can be born. So two eggs can be used say two years apart and “twins” can then be born two years apart!

There are many different kinds of I.V.F. that all have names like G.I.F.T., F.I.S.H, P.R.O.S.T., A.I.H., D.I., D.O., T.E.S.T., and E.T., which really just stand for all the types and ways the egg and sperm can end up! These are all different to each other because of how long the egg and sperm are in a glass dish together and where and when they are put back into the woman's body.

Sometimes the egg and sperm are not even put together into the glass dish but just put back alongside of each other so they can get together themselves!



Here are some interesting facts about I.V.F:

- First successful I.V.F birth: In the U.K in 1978
- First 2 babies in Australia: This was in 1980
- First I.V.F twins born in Australia: 1985 by frozen embryo method
- Australia's 500th I.V.F baby: 1988
- 10 Year Celebration (Mum and I went to it.) 1990
- 3000 I.V.F babies were born: By 1996
- I.V.F. has about a 26% success rate: By today – 1999

Not everybody on the I.V.F. program has not had babies before. My dad has had a baby before me, my half brother David – he is 25 this year.

I asked my mum and dad questions about why they went on I.V.F.

- Q.1. Why did you want to go on the I.V.F. program?
We were unable to successfully have a baby although we did get pregnant several times.
- Q.2. Why couldn't you have a baby?
I wasn't producing eggs that were good enough or any eggs at all and Dad's sperm was pretty bad too.
- Q.3. How many times did you go on the I.V.F. program?
Three times.
- Q.4. How long before you were successful on the program?
About 3 years.
- Q.5. Was it very hard for you.
Yes. We needed to do a lot of trips to Melbourne – daily – and sometimes I had to stay in hospital longer than the other patients as I needed special treatment. The whole thing is extremely emotional and often heartbreaking.
- Q.6 Did your doctor think that you would succeed?
No. The I.V.F. Team thought we were pretty much a hopeless case – imagine how excited everyone was when it worked?

Easter Saturday 1988 Mum found out she was pregnant. By Christmas I was born!



I.V.F. was at first just an idea and it wasn't until the 1960's that it was even thought to be something that could be done. So it really was not that long ago – the world was pretty much the same as today.

I.V.F is a good discovery of mankind because before I.V.F was introduced, there were a lot of people that could not have babies. They adopted babies that other people could not keep but then there were not many babies to adopt. So instead of adopting babies now there is a special treatment that can help people have babies. I.V.F is a treatment that could do this for them and give a lot of love to everyone.

I chose I.V.F. for my project because I was an I.V.F. "baby" and I know I have made a big difference in lots of people's lives that I know and I am very much loved because I was very much wanted.