

FRESH VERSUS VITRIFIED-WARMED BLASTOCYST TRANSFER PREGNANCY OUTCOMES IN 39 AGE FEMALE GROUP

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Objective: To investigate endometrial receptivity to pregnancy in fresh and vitrified-warmed autologous double blastocyst transfers (DET) in women 40 years and older.

Patients and methods: A retrospective observational study of ART cycles performed between January 2012 and June 2013 in a private clinic setting. In the study period 31 fresh (fDET) and 12 vitrified-warmed (vDET) double blastocyst transfers, with at least one of the two blastocysts a blastocyst at the grade 3 expansion (scale 1-4) stage, in women aged 40 years and older were compared. Ovarian stimulation for oocyte collection was performed using rFSH and hMG with GnRH antagonist control. Warmed blastocysts (Cryotop method) were transferred in quasi-natural cycles using hormone supplementation. The pregnancy (30 IU/l β hCG, fetal heart 7 weeks), pregnancy loss and live birth outcomes (20 weeks) in the two groups were compared.

Results: In this select group of older women, with an average age of 41 years, ART treatment can provide reasonable live birth outcomes (22.6% to 33.3%). Although not significant, higher pregnancy, clinical pregnancy and live birth rates were obtained in the vDET compared to the fDET group. However, the pregnancy loss rates both before and after 7 weeks lead to a total pregnancy loss rate (60% vs 30%) in the vDET that nearly equalized the live birth rates obtained in the two groups.

Conclusion: Two factors in this select group of women may significantly affect pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes, endometrial receptivity and embryo aneuploidy. Controlling both factors may help to increase live birth rate in women older than 39 years.

			P value
No Det \geq 1 grade 3 blastocyst	31	12	
Age (std)	41.7 (1.46)	41.4 (1.39)	0.544
No blastocyst transferred	2	2	
Pregnant % (No)	32.3 (10)	83.3 (10)	0.153
Clinical pregnancy % (No)	25.8 (8)	50.0 (6)	0.333*
Live birth % (No)	22.6 (7)	33.3 (4)	0.714*
Twin pregnancy % (No)	10.0 (1)	10.0 (1)	1.000*
Total pregnancy loss % (No)	30.0 (3)	60.0 (6)	0.454*
Early pregnancy loss % (No)	20.0 (2)	40.0 (4)	0.652*

t- test, Chi-square and *Fisher Exact Test