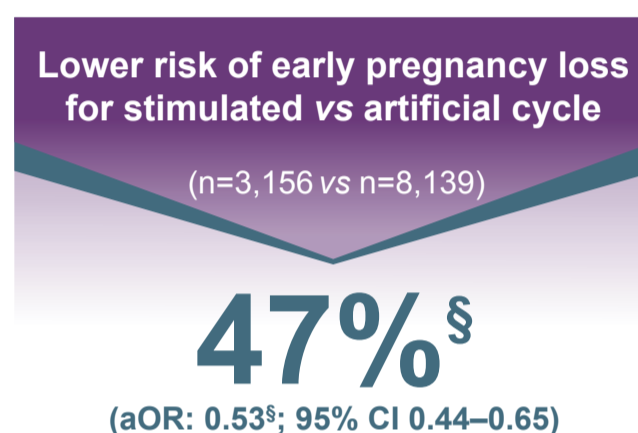
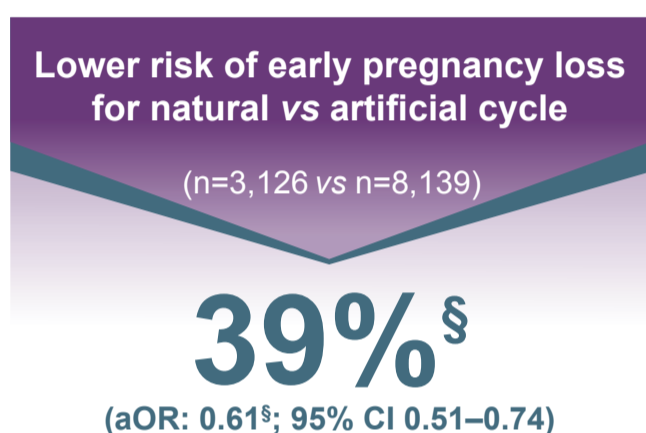




Did you know?

...that the endometrial preparation protocol used may have a significant impact on pregnancy outcomes after frozen embryo transfer?

In a retrospective, multicentre, cohort study of 14,421 frozen cycles from nine centres in France,* using a natural cycle[†] or stimulated cycle[‡] approach before frozen embryo transfer was associated with a significantly lower risk of early pregnancy loss** compared with an artificial cycle (primary endpoint)^{¶1}



Natural cycle and stimulated cycle were associated with a lower risk of early pregnancy loss compared with artificial cycle

No significant difference in outcomes between natural cycle vs stimulated cycle

This study is limited by its retrospective design that generates missing data.

Routine practice within centres was also heterogeneous.¹

- These results have potential implications for choice of preparation protocol in clinical practice
- An ongoing randomised, controlled trial comparing natural cycle and artificial cycle will provide additional evidence on obstetric outcomes, including pre-eclampsia, and is due to report in 2024^{2,3}

*data (baseline characteristics, treatment-related data and reproductive outcomes) for all cycles performed between 2012 and 2016 from each in vitro fertilisation centre registry were merged in a final database and analysed.

[†]natural cycle (monitoring of a physiological cycle, which can be 'modified' by using human chorionic gonadotropin to trigger ovulation and/or associated to a luteal phase support by progesterone).

[‡]stimulated cycle (ovarian stimulation by exogenous treatments [e.g. gonadotropins, letrozole or clomifene citrate] followed by ovulation triggering by human chorionic gonadotropin).

**before 10 weeks of gestation.

[¶]artificial cycle/traditional medicated cycle (exogenous supplementation by oestradiol and progesterone).

[§]the aORs have been inverted from those stated in the publication and the percentages presenting the risk of pregnancy loss have been calculated from these aORs.

aOR, adjusted odds ratio; CI, confidence interval.

1. Vinsonneau L et al. *Hum Reprod Open* 2022;(2):hoac007.

2. Baksh S et al. *Trials* 2021;22(1):660.

3. Natural Versus Programmed Frozen Embryo Transfer (NatPro). Available at: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04551807> [Accessed August 2023].