

Fertility breakthrough: First baby born from eggs matured in lab before being frozen

Fertility doctors in France have announced the birth of the first baby to be born to a cancer patient from an immature egg that was matured in the laboratory, frozen, then thawed and fertilized five years later.

A letter in the leading cancer journal *Annals of Oncology* [February 19] describes how the baby boy was born to a 34-year-old French woman... Before she started her cancer treatment, doctors removed seven immature [eggs](#) from her ovaries and used a technique called in vitro maturation (IVM) to enable the eggs to develop further in the laboratory.

The mature eggs were then frozen by means of vitrification, which freezes the eggs very rapidly in liquid nitrogen to reduce the chances of ice crystals forming and damaging the cell.

Until now, there have been no successful pregnancies in cancer patients after eggs that have undergone IVM and vitrification, although some children have been born as a result of IVM followed by immediate fertilisation and transfer to the patient without freezing.

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“...our success with Jules shows that this technique should be considered a viable option for female fertility preservation, ideally combined with ovarian tissue cryopreservation as well,” [said researcher Michaël Grynberg].

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