

Could donated blood be transformed into lab-made replacement eggs for infertile couples? Silicon Valley is trying

[Conception](#) is the largest commercial venture pursuing what's called in vitro gametogenesis, which refers to turning adult cells into gametes—sperm or egg cells.

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The company is initially trying to make replacement eggs for women. That's scientifically easier than making eggs from male cells, and it has an obvious market. People are having kids later in life, but a woman's supply of healthy eggs nosedives in her 30s. It's a major reason patients visit IVF clinics.

Conception is starting with blood cells from female donors and trying to transform these into the first "proof-of-concept human egg" made in the lab. The company hasn't done it yet—nor has anyone else.

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The prospect of egg cells from a blood draw is profound—and ethically fraught. Conception's process for making eggs from stem cells has required human fetal tissue. And if reproduction is dissociated from what have been the accepted facts of life, unfamiliar scenarios could result. It opens the door not only for same sex-reproduction, but perhaps even for one individual—or four—to generate an offspring.

More realistically, because the technology could turn eggs into a manufactured resource, it could supercharge the path to designer children.

[This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.](#)