



Board Certified in Reproductive  
Endocrinology and Infertility

# Fertility Facts

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*Making Families a Reality*

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## Tubal Reversal or In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)?

Many women have undergone tubal sterilization after deciding they no longer want to have more children. It is not uncommon for a percentage of these women to then regret the decision and have a change of heart because they love having children or they enter a new relationship and wish to grow their family. For patients who are considering having their tubes untied, in vitro fertilization (IVF) may be a more ideal solution. Below are some key factors to consider.

### **Factors to Consider**

#### **Success Rates:**

- Not all patients who have had tubal sterilization are candidates for tubal reversal. In many cases the tubes are damaged (burned or cut out) in the sterilization process and do not work well once they have been “untied”.
- The health and length of the remaining tubal segments will not be known until the actual time of surgery. If surgery is not successful, patients will need to pursue IVF regardless.
- Endometriosis or any scar tissue affecting the tubes or ovaries would greatly reduce the chances for success after tubal reversal surgery. IVF success rates are generally not affected by these conditions.
- Overall, pregnancy rates are often similar if not higher for women who choose IVF over tubal reversal surgery.

#### **Woman's Fertility:**

- Chances of success for both tubal reversal and IVF begin to decline for women in their mid to late 30's. Even if it has only been a few years since the ligation, it is recommended that a woman's ovarian reserve be tested because it is possible for these declines to happen earlier than expected.
- IVF is a more effective approach for such women who are experiencing a diminished ovarian reserve.

#### **Man's Fertility:**

- Ordering a semen analysis to test the partner's fertility health is equally important. With IVF there is no need to worry about a low sperm count or quality since techniques in IVF can correct this problem.

#### **Recovery:**

- Tubal reversal is major surgery involving anesthesia and a 7-10 day recovery period.
- IVF involves a simple in-office procedure with virtually no recovery time.
- With IVF there is also a very low risk for tubal or ectopic pregnancy. Patients who undergo tubal reversal surgery should be monitored closely for this condition.

#### **Costs:**

- When compared to a hospital-based tubal reversal surgery, IVF is often less expensive depending on the patients' needs. However, more and more physicians are offering tubal reversals in an outpatient setting making the procedure much more affordable.
- Carolina Conceptions offers various financial packages for IVF, including refund cycles if a patient fails to conceive.

#### **Other Considerations:**

- Tubal reversal is a better option for couples that have ethical or religious objections that preclude IVF.
- Tubal reversal may also be a better option for fertile couples who wish to conceive multiple pregnancies in the future.
- With IVF there is no need to have patients' tubes retied or sterilized after delivery as they were never undone.

While the physicians at Carolina Conceptions do not perform tubal reversals, we are happy to consult with patients to conclude whether they are a better candidate for IVF or tubal reversal surgery. Should patients decide that tubal reversal is a more suitable option for their needs, Carolina Conceptions will refer them to a local medical practice who specializes in tubal reversals. Patients may also find helpful information regarding IVF success rates and costs on our newly redesigned website at [www.carolinaconceptions.com](http://www.carolinaconceptions.com).

*About Us: Carolina Conceptions is the fastest growing infertility center in the southeast and is the only private practice of its kind in the Triangle area where all doctors are board certified in both OB/GYN and Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. The physicians share more than 45 years experience in the infertility field and have achieved some of the highest success rates in both the region and country. The practice offers a fully comprehensive range of treatment options along with a highly trained staff who are dedicated to delivering friendly and compassionate care.*