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10 Best Fertility Centers

4. New York University School of Medicine, Program for In-Vitro Fertilization, Reproductive Surgery, and Infertility, New York City

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Number of ART cycles and transfers in 2002: 1,362

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Percentage of ART cycles from non-donor fresh embryos resulting in live births in 2002: 45% (under age 35), 42% (ages 35-37), 24% (ages 38-40), 17% (ages 41-42)

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Sees many difficult cases; about 70% of patients have failed at least one IVF cycle elsewhere

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Offers a patient library equipped with computers

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Is developing an egg-freezing program

Thirteen years ago, Jamie Grifo, M.D., Ph.D., was the first fertility specialist in the U.S. to successfully perform pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD), the screening of an embryo for a specific inherited condition, such as cystic fibrosis. "It's heartbreaking to talk to couples whose children have died from a genetic disease," says Dr. Grifo, director of the division of Reproductive Endocrinology at New York University. "They tell me they couldn't go through it again -- all they want is a healthy baby."

Dr. Grifo, who has been at NYU for the last 10 years and did his early work with PGD at Yale and Cornell, has begun to apply the technique to women who have suffered recurrent miscarriages. "We're searching for abnormalities in chromosomal numbers, and often we find them," he explains. "Last year, I started one of my patients, who had gone through five miscarriages, on an IVF cycle. She produced 11 eggs, which fertilized. When we checked them, we found that only two were normal. We put both back, one implanted, and she gave birth recently."

In fact, more than 70 babies have been born to NYU clients using the technique -- which involves making a hole in the outer coating of the embryo and removing a single cell for analysis -- and the clinical-pregnancy rate per cycle is about 40%. "If done properly, it really doesn't make the embryo much less likely to implant," he says. What about future consequences? Although long-term effects are still unknown, a recent study of 754 PGD babies suggests that they're no more likely to have birth defects than children conceived conventionally.