

## **Do hormonal treatments for assisted reproduction increase risks of cancer or mortality in women? A national cohort study**

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This study will investigate whether women who have taken hormone drugs as part of fertility treatment (such as in vitro fertilisation (IVF)) have a higher risk of developing certain types of cancer than other women. As well as this, the researchers hope to identify if different types of treatment or repeated treatments might have an impact on the level of risk.

The insights from this study might provide information to couples who are considering their treatment options and might help fertility professionals to counsel prospective patients about risks.

The NHS and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) both keep databases which will be used together to make this the largest study of its kind. Information about all women registered with the HFEA who underwent fertility treatment between 1991 and 2007 will be included in the study (unless they have opted out of having their data used for research purposes). The information will be linked to the NHS Central Register (NHSCR) and the researchers will be able to identify if a woman subsequently had cancer or died. The outcomes of this linkage will be compared to that from women on the NHSCR who have not had fertility treatment to see if differences exist. No patients will be contacted directly.

Previous studies addressing this issue have drawn mixed conclusions due largely to being too small. A change in the law governing the HFEA has presented this opportunity to carry out a study four times larger than the largest such study published to date.