

MALTESE PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Resolution on Assisted Reproductive Techniques

The Extraordinary General Meeting of the Maltese Paediatric Association of the 21st July 2005, while noting that:

1. Assisted Reproductive Techniques (ART) frequently leads to the birth of significant numbers of twins, triplets, quadruplets and higher-order births born to different mothers at the same time, and that this inevitably results in a severe depletion of the neonatal intensive care resources of this country.
2. Moreover, worldwide, multiple pregnancies arising from ART are associated with an increased risk of death and neurological disability in the offspring.

Unanimously resolves that:

1. ART and infertility treatment should be regulated by adequate legislation.
2. An independent State regulatory body should be set up, along the lines of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority of the United Kingdom.
3. Not more than 2 embryos should be transferred in any IVF cycle.
4. The regulatory body must ensure that the treatment of infertility will not jeopardise the neonatal intensive care resources of the country.
5. Professional counselling should be mandatory to prospective parents seeking infertility treatment.
6. Detailed records should be kept and statistics published annually by the regulatory body.
7. All professionals involved in ART shall liaise with the neonatal services of the country.