

Maltese Paediatric Association

Embryo Protection Bill and IVF Regulation in Malta

Press Release

The Maltese Paediatric Association reiterates the necessity for the effective regulation on the number of embryos that may be legally transferred in any single IVF cycle. This is in order to minimise the risk of medical complications to infants. Unregulated IVF frequently results in triplets and since 90% of triplets are born prematurely, they have a high risk of death, brain damage with permanent disabilities and numerous other complications.

IVF is therefore regulated in all European countries, employing different means and strategies, with the intention of minimizing the risk to babies associated with multi-foetal pregnancies.

Obstetricians who practice IVF should welcome an evidence-based protocol to achieve two main objectives:

1. A good success rate, and
2. The protection of human life from its beginning and the safeguarding of children born from this process.

We therefore appeal to the Members of Parliament to ensure that the law should restrict to a maximum of two the embryos transferred per IVF cycle, as per all regulated European countries, and to clearly define the exceptions to this general rule. The law should also empower the regulatory authority to establish and enforce the norms for best practice.

The Association warns that unless the law includes such provisions, it will not provide any safeguards to the life and health of children born from assisted reproductive techniques.

Prof Thomas Attard
President
17 ta' Novembru 2012

Dr Juanita Debattista
Secretary
17 ta' Novembru 2012