

# **INFERTILITY AND MODERN TECHNIQUES OF ASSISTED REPRODUCTION, THEIR IMPACT ON TODAY SOCIETY**

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## **Abstract**

Infertility is defined as failure to achieve pregnancy after at least 12 months of regular unprotected sexual intercourse for women aged up to 35 years or after 6 months for women aged more than 35 years. Infertility has been proclaimed as the challenge of the millennium. It might affect 50-80 million women across the globe. In developing countries, the incidence of secondary infertility is estimated up to 50%. There are numerous known and unknown factors which might affect the capabilities of human reproductive system. The single most important independent factor affecting the couples' chances to conceive and give birth either naturally or artificially is the age of the woman. This issue is gaining increasing importance in the context when women are postponing their maternity, a tendency made obvious during last decades. The information regarding the prevalence of infertility in Albania is very limited. However, in 2012 the Minister of Health reported that approximately 12% of Albanian couples face difficulties in conceiving. Causes of infertility are different and can be classified into female or male causes, mix or idiopathic ones. The treatment of these causes not always results in a live birth. In cases when conventional treatments fail, the assisted reproduction techniques (ART) are suggested. These techniques have started to being used since 2003 after the respective legislation was approved and there are now at least 10 private clinics offering such services in Albania. However, the information from these clinics is difficult to be obtained due to informality issues. In this context, the aim of the present study is the retrieval of the information regarding the results of the IVF procedures and factors associated with pregnancy and live birth after IVF in order to shed light upon this under researched topic in our country.