



## Risks and complications of assisted conception

### **INTRODUCTION**

No medical treatment is entirely free from risk and infertility treatment is no exception. It is important, however, to appreciate that most patients go through IVF and other assisted conception treatments without any problems at all.

The risks associated with infertility treatment can be considered over six categories:

- The risks associated with the drugs used to stimulate ovaries
- The surgical risks associated with egg collection
- Laboratory issues and risks
- The risks associated with pregnancy
- The risks of an abnormal pregnancy
- Psychological and emotional risks

### **PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL RISKS**

Treatment for infertility is an emotional 'rollercoaster' of expectation, disappointment and success and the marked hormonal changes that occur during the cycle of treatment can create psychological and emotional pressures that can in turn place strain on a relationship. Support is provided by the staff of the clinic during this difficult time and additionally patients may find counselling beneficial.