

Study to explore use of PGD in lowering multiple birth rates

Assisted Reproduction

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2004 APR 1 - ([NewsRx.com](#) & [NewsRx.net](#)) -- The GENESIS Network for Reproductive Health, an independent group of fertility specialists, received a grant to study the role that preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) combined with in-vitro fertilization (IVF) plays in reducing multiple births.

Dr. Lawrence Werlin, the study's principal investigator and cofounder of GENESIS, announced the grant, entitled "Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis as a Tool to Lower Multifetal Pregnancy Rates."

The study responds to research indicating that multiple births in the United States are alarmingly high with a noted increase of 59% in the last 2 decades. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports an estimated two-thirds of triplet or higher births are the result of fertility-enhancing therapies. Research also indicates that the trend and rate increase will continue.

PGD is a therapeutic and genetic testing tool that aids in the IVF process by screening for abnormal chromosomes or genetic defects in embryos. A recent GENESIS study concluded that PGD combined with IVF can positively increase chances for pregnancy success for women in high-risk categories.

"We are speculating that PGD may be the antidote to minimizing IVF multiple births," Werlin said. "By using PGD to screen for the healthiest embryos, we intend to show that transferring two or less embryos to a woman can equally achieve pregnancy success while lowering the rate of multiple births."

According to Werlin, the study will also evaluate current data that suggests that limiting the number of embryos transferred in IVF can significantly reduce maternal and infant health risks associated with multiple births. The data collected and analyzed may also lead to other advances in reproductive medicine such as an increase in insurance coverage for fertility treatments. This article was prepared by Women's Health Weekly editors from staff and other reports. Copyright 2004, Women's Health Weekly via [NewsRx.com](#) & [NewsRx.net](#).

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