

BABY, SHOULD OVER-50S GET IVF?



LAST CHANCE
Paul and Carla with quads



It's still hard to believe - they're my little miracles

Carla Crozier, 36, from Grays, Essex, had 16-month-old quadruplets Isla, Demi, Alyse and Milla through IVF, with odds of 70 million to one

MY husband Paul and I spent five years trying to conceive. We had lots of tests and tried many different things before we were referred for IVF.

There's a lot of heartache when you have failed attempts.

We qualified for three goes on the NHS and had our daughter Darcie, four.

We self-funded two more rounds after Darcie - and I got pregnant both times but I miscarried.

I still had hope, I knew I

would have another baby and wanted to do anything I could to keep trying.

In 2016 we took out a loan for our final attempt, bringing the total we'd spent on IVF up to £16,000.

When we went for our scan at seven weeks we were told we had triplets but they found a fourth baby at our 12-week scan.

It's still hard to believe - they're my little miracles.

IVF provided the answer for all my dreams.

I was so determined I lost 3stone to qualify for IVF

Emma Tasker, 34, a maternity care assistant from Dartford, Kent, calls her two-year-old daughter Phoebe her "IVF miracle"

AFTER our marriage in 2013, my husband Matthew and I began trying for a baby. It wasn't happening and it got really stressful.

We were told we needed IVF and I lost three stone in four months in order to qualify.

I was very determined to become a mum.

Our first appointment was in May 2015.

At first I just didn't respond to the drugs and a week or so in I was advised to cancel and

start my cycle from the beginning.

But I asked the consultant if there was any chance it could work and decided I had to go for it.

I got three eggs, two of them were fertilised and Phoebe took.

I found out I was pregnant that September and she was born in May 2016.

We feel that we are very blessed. We don't have as much money and we're exhausted all the time, but Phoebe is just fantastic.



BLESSED The Tasker family

MUM AT LAST
Carolyne went to India for IVF to have Jared as NHS and UK private clinics would have ruled her too old

become mums and then sadly, their circumstances change too. I couldn't let 'what ifs' stop me.

Carolyne used her savings to cover the £4,500 treatment at the International Fertility Centre in New Delhi in March last year.

She made her choice of egg and sperm donors from a list of 10. "I picked a 21-year-old Indian woman, who liked dancing, and

imported sperm from a 6ft white American who worked in IT and had dark hair and brown eyes. Neither donor has any legal right to contact the child."

Three fertilised embryos were grown in the clinic for five days, then transferred into Carolyne's womb. Two weeks later, a blood test back in Australia confirmed her pregnancy. "I had waited a

lifetime to be pregnant and now I had two strangers to thank for my happiness," she says. "But I wasn't at the finish line yet."

Carolyne was monitored regularly and Silvana agreed to be her birthing partner.

She exercised and meditated throughout. She says people "stared" at her baby bump. "I didn't mind. I was proud to

show off what my body was capable of," she adds.

At 35 weeks, Jared's growth slowed so Carolyne's doctor scheduled a C-section for two weeks later. The baby arrived weighing 5lb 20z.

"He was, and still is, perfect. He was everything I could have hoped for and more," she says.

LOVE

"I take him swimming and I'll teach him to ski one day. I'll be 60 next March, but I have plenty of energy. I could not love Jared more even if he was made from my own egg. He will grow up in no doubt as to how loved and wanted he is.

"There is no point focusing on how old Jared will be when I die. We focus on enjoying every day of every year we have together."

features@sundaymirror.co.uk

YES

By Sharon Cutts, from Boston, Lincs, Britain's oldest mum of triplets in 2016 aged 55 after treatment in Cyprus

GOOD on her, I'm pleased for her. If she's fit and healthy then why not? It doesn't matter what age she is. You can die young when you've got kids. You don't know what's round the corner.

As long as she can support her children, like my partner Stuart and I can support ours, that's fine. I did it so Stuart, who is 15 years younger than me, could have children and his mum could have

some grandchildren. I wouldn't have done it if I wasn't fit and healthy, or if I'd had any medical problems.

The triplets are two years and three months old now. They're into everything. I think I spoil them more than my four older children.

We're both juggling the kids and work and we're doing fine.

When my story came out, I got positives and negatives. I was called stupid and told it wasn't fair for the children.

It WAS fair for the children.

What is embryo adoption?

By Dr. Marisa López-Tejón, Director of Institut Marquès, a centre of Assisted Reproduction with offices in Barcelona, Milan, London and Ireland

Institut Marquès was a pioneer in embryo adoption, launching the procedure in 2004.

It's a huge success. Patients are usually couples with more than four failed fertility treatment attempts.

Embryo adoption is completely painless.

The uterus is prepared to receive the embryos through oestrogen patches and

vaginal progesterone tablets. After a few days, the embryos are thawed and transferred into the womb.

Then, after 14 days, the pregnancy test is performed. Despite its name, embryo adoption does not require any formal adoption procedure.

Now patients from 124 different nationalities, including the UK, have used our clinic.