



Saturday the 25th of July marked the 42nd birthday of IVF and the world's first IVF baby Louise Brown. Since her birth, IVF procedures have improved dramatically. Originally IVF was achieving single-digit success rates, however, IVF is now successful in nearly 50% of cases in which the woman is under 35.

Science and ethics have hindered human reproduction research and the developments for infertility. In the IVF treatment which led to the birth of Louise Brown, her mother had a natural [menstrual cycle](#), a pre-ovulatory oocyte from her ovary was retrieved by [laparoscopy](#), the doctors fertilised it in vitro (outside of the body) and then transferred the resulting eight-cell [embryo](#) into her [uterus](#).

Today IVF has helped to achieve millions of birth worldwide and 1-3% of all births annually in America and Europe. The research and development of technologies to optimise IVF procedures and success are driven by rising demand for fertility treatment. In the vast majority of IVF cases, infertile couples receive treatment to conceive a genetically-related child.

Over the last 20 years in the UK, IVF success rates have tripled with almost a third of all [embryo](#) transfers in women under 35 resulting in a baby, according to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA). Unfortunately, in some parts of England, there are difficulties in accessing NHS funding for infertility treatment.

Since the birth of Louise Brown, IVF treatments have significantly advanced as shown by the number of births achieved by IVF. In order to keep making progress, research and development must be ongoing.

The full article about the history of IVF developments and processes can be found at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6140213/>

The full article about the IVF success rates in the UK over the last 20 years can be found at: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jun/30/uks-ivf-success-rate-has...>

Our team at Cambridge IVF are actively involved in fertility research which helps us keep at the forefront of knowledge and advances in our field and, ultimately, deliver a better service to you. The way we manage your treatment reflects the latest scientific evidence.

