

## Lesson: 6

### Key messages:

- There are many ways assisted reproductive treatment can help people to become parents.

### Activity Details

#### Victorian Curriculum

**Health & PE** Investigate resources to manage changes and transitions associated with puberty VCHPEP106

**Time** 45 minutes

**Levels** 5 & 6

#### Equipment

- *Creating babies* presentation accessible from Resources section of the portal
- *Assisted reproductive treatment* teacher reference sheet

# Ways to conceive - When you need medical help to conceive

### Purpose

- To revise the process of conception.
- To explain the different methods of conceiving using Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART).

### Teaching Notes

Many students will find this activity fascinating. The flipchart makes the explanation of different methods of ART easy to explain. If this is unavailable, drawing diagrams using stick figures and arrows will make it easier for students to understand the process of ART visually. The activity could be used to teach students about report, procedural or explanatory texts. (Please note that the law in Victoria prohibits surrogates from using their own eggs when acting as a surrogate.)

### Procedure

- Revise the key points of conception. Use a magno-mate board or similar item to provide a visual overview of standard conception.
- Refer to the previous lesson to discuss how standard conception does not always work for a parent.
- Using the flipchart or diagrams drawn on the board, illustrate the different methods of conception. Include IVF, sperm/egg/embryo donation, surrogacy, same-sex couple family formation etc. Refer to teacher reference sheet for details on each type of ART.
- As an extension activity, students could work in groups making a poster of a type of ART. They could make up their own diagrams or flipchart to illustrate the procedure.

# Assisted Reproductive Treatment

## Teacher reference sheet

Name of ART method	Description of procedure
<p>In vitro fertilisation (IVF)</p>	<p>There are times when a couple want to have a baby but find it difficult to conceive. The man and woman might have sexual intercourse many times but a pregnancy doesn't start. Doctors can try to help the couple conceive. The woman has some injections so that several eggs develop (in her ovaries). When the eggs are ripe they are taken out of the woman's body and sperm from the man is mixed with the eggs in a glass dish so that embryos form. Embryos are really tiny, you need a microscope to be able to see them. Everyone in the world begins from an embryo. Sometimes the sperm are injected into the egg if the sperm are not able to join with the egg by itself.</p> <p>If an embryo is made, it is then put back inside the woman in her uterus so that it will grow into a foetus. If there are more embryos they can be frozen (not in a home freezer but in tanks of liquid nitrogen) and stored to be used later if they are needed. These frozen embryos are kept because a woman might not become pregnant with the first embryo they put inside her uterus or because the man and woman might want to try to have another baby in the future.</p> <p>IVF doesn't always work and sometimes the woman doesn't get pregnant even with the doctors' help.</p>
<p>Sperm/egg/embryo donation</p>	<p>Sometimes a man's sperm isn't working or he doesn't have any. Sometimes a woman's eggs are not working properly and she can't become pregnant. Sometimes a woman doesn't know a man she wants to have a baby with or two women or two men want to become parents together.</p> <p>These people can be helped to have babies by a person called a donor. A donor is someone who gives something to another person to help them (e.g. a blood or kidney donor). They can be single men or women or a couple. They donate or give some of their sperm, eggs or embryos (sperm donor/egg donor/embryo donor) to help someone else have a baby. A donor may be a friend of the parents or they might give their eggs, sperm or embryos to a medical clinic or hospital so that the doctors can give it to people who need it.</p> <p>The sperm can be put inside a woman's vagina using a fine tube. The egg can be used with IVF (see previous explanation). People who have embryos they made from IVF that they can't use can choose to give them to another person who isn't able to conceive without the help of a donor embryo. If a woman or a couple who can't conceive on their own want to use donor embryos then the donor embryos are thawed (as they would have been stored frozen in liquid nitrogen) and put into the woman's uterus.</p>

Name of ART method	Description of procedure
Surrogacy	<p>Sometimes a woman's uterus doesn't work properly, or she doesn't have one, so she can't conceive or stay pregnant long enough for a foetus to grow into a baby (carry a pregnancy). Sometimes two men want to have a baby but a man's body can't grow a baby either. A woman might offer to grow the baby for another family. She is called a surrogate.</p> <p>The embryo from the parents who want the baby is put inside the surrogate's uterus where it keeps growing until it is ready to be born. The parents might need the help of a donor too as well as a surrogate (e.g. gay fathers will need an egg donor). After the baby is born it is then given back to its parents and lives with them.</p>