

Daily Telegraph 5 May 2016

# Women believe IVF should stop for would-be mothers at 44

By Radhika Sanghani

BRITISH women believe that 44 is too old to have a baby and should be the cut-off point for providing free help to would-be mothers, says a survey.

According to current guidance, IVF is available on the NHS up to the age of 42, although the final decision on who can have the treatment is made by local clinical commissioning groups.

In some instances it has been reported that women in their 50s have had subsidised fertility treatment.

Most private IVF clinics in the UK take 50 as the age limit for assisted conception and would only consider someone older under special circumstances. Some private clinics abroad also treat women over 50.

After 2,019 women were surveyed by the Private Pregnancy UK Show, 44 emerged as the average age by which fertility help should cease.

The main reasons included the risk of health complications for the child, and that it would be unfair of the child to have old parents, who may not live long enough to see them grow up.

Some believe it was “unnatural” for women to have babies after that age.

Three-quarters believed government health officials ought to offer better education to women on not leaving it too late to start a family.

Dr Amin Gorgy, a consultant and IVF specialist at the Fertility & Gynaecology Academy, said: “IVF must be put into perspective if used after the age of 35, as the chances of having a live birth with an IVF cycle declines dramatically with age. For example, there is a 20 per cent success rate at the age of 40, which falls to 1 per cent above the age of 45.”

He said the ideal age for women to become pregnant was in their 20s and early 30s.