

Doctors given licence to carry out three-parent-baby IVF

◆ Britain's first three-parent baby could be born after Newcastle University was given the green light to carry out IVF using the DNA of two women.

The fertility technique allows doctors to replace an egg's defective mitochondrial DNA with healthy DNA from a female donor to prevent children suffering from conditions such as muscular dystrophy.

It is controversial because it would result in babies born with the DNA of three people.

In December, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority said clinics could start applying on a case-by-case basis.

Yesterday, the HFEA confirmed that Newcastle University had been given a licence to carry out the first procedure.

The UK is the first country to legalise the treatment, although earlier this year the first baby was born using mitochondrial replacement in Mexico, where there are no laws preventing it.

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