Infertility

Inability to become pregnant after one year of intercourse without contraception involving a male and female partner.

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There are many causes of infertility, including some that medical intervention can treat.

Estimates from 1997 suggest that worldwide about five percent of all heterosexual couples have an unresolved problem with infertility. Many more couples, however, experience involuntary childlessness for at least one year: estimates range from 12% to 28%.

Male infertility is responsible for 20–30% of infertility cases, while 20–35% are due to female infertility, and 25–40% are due to combined problems in both parts.

In 10-20% of cases, no cause is found.

The most common cause of female infertility is ovulatory problems, which generally manifest themselves by sparse or absent menstrual periods.[6] Male infertility is most commonly due to deficiencies in the semen, and semen quality is used as a surrogate measure of male fecundity.

Hyperprolactinemia may cause galactorrhea and disruptions in the normal menstrual period in women and hypogonadism, infertility and erectile dysfunction in men.

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