

*Review article*

# Assessing the Risk of Cerebral Palsy in Children Born after Assisted Conception – The Role of Multiple Pregnancy and Preterm Delivery

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## SUMMARY

For more than three decades, assisted reproductive techniques (ART) have been used as effective treatments to overcome infertility. Since then, numerous studies have been focused on different aspects of long-term health and development of children born after assisted conception. The aim of this paper is to summarize new data on multiple pregnancy and preterm delivery as one of the risk factors which might increase the risk of developing cerebral palsy (CP) in children born after assisted conception.

A comprehensive search of eight databases retrieved 108 papers, 10 of which met inclusion criteria and were relevant for this review.

Despite the dissimilarities in methodological and analytic approaches in the selected studies, *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) and intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) are generally considered safe, still there is an ongoing discussion whether multiple pregnancy and preterm delivery increase or do not increase the risk of CP in children born after assisted conception.

All information about possible adverse maternal and/or infant outcomes should be made available to the couples seeking ART treatment.

**Key words:** assisted reproduction, *in vitro* fertilization, cerebral palsy, disability

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