

*National
Organization of
Mothers
Of
Twins
Clubs, Inc.*

SUBJECT:

FERTILITY DRUG SURVEY

RESEARCHER:

National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc.

DATE:

1986

Many mothers of multiples attribute their multiple births to use of fertility drugs. Because several different types of fertility drugs are used, a survey was designed to find out which types of drugs were used by members of NOMOTC, how long it took for mothers to conceive and what types of characteristics might be associated with fertility drug use.

In March, 1986, a survey which had been designed by NOMOTC Research Committee was distributed to club members. A total of 487 surveys were completed and returned by July 1, 1986. Of the mothers who responded, 151 (31%) felt that they had conceived with the help of fertility drugs. Of these mothers, 137 had used one type of drug exclusively and only their responses were summarized.

The fertility drug used most frequently by mothers was Clomid which was used by 134 (28%) of the mothers surveyed. This represented 98% of the mothers who reported use of a fertility drug. The other drugs used by only a few of the mothers included Follutein, Pergonal, Depo-Provera and Provera.

It took the mothers using fertility drugs anywhere from one month to more than a year to conceive. For 80 mothers (58% of the users) it took one to three months. For 30 mothers (22%) it took three to six months, and for 28 mothers (20%) it took 6 months or more. Only 14 of the women surveyed had taken fertility drugs for more than one pregnancy.

Most of the mothers who used fertility drugs had twins, although 18 had triplets and one had quadruplets. When asked if they had experienced any adverse effects from taking fertility drugs, 11 said yes. Only three mothers felt that their children had suffered as a result of fertility drug use. Seven mothers did seek a medical doctor for conditions which may have been caused as a result of fertility drugs.

The children of the women surveyed whose conception was attributed to use of fertility drugs ranged in age from 7 weeks to 15 years, with most children being less than 5 years old. Because so many of the mothers had used Clomid exclusively it was not possible to compare responses of people who used different types of drugs. Thus, it was not possible to determine if mothers' answers to the question on the survey were significantly different for women who had not used Clomid.
