

ST: LN-NY69 JULY 20 78 MSG: CKP, RED

TO: TIME MAPS

FROM: LONDON BY: AMPITHEATROF

SLUG: TEST TUBE BABY. CLOSE: 7/21 EOM:

WE HAVE TENTATIVE RPT TENTATIVE ANSWERS TO YOUR RUSH QUERY. UNTIL STEPTOE AND EDWARDS PUBLISH THE DETAILS OF THEIR METHOD, NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE WHAT TECHNIQUES THEY ARE USING. WE HAVE QUERIED A LEADING BRITISH EXPERT ON INFERTILITY DR. STUART J. STEELE OF LONDON'S MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, WHO HAS FOLLOWED THE OLDHAM EXPERIMENTS CLOSELY. HE GUESSES THAT:

-- STEPTOE WOULD TRY TO ASPIRATE AS MANY EGGS AS POSSIBLE, SINCE THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE FAILURE RATE IN FERTILIZATION BY SPERM EVEN IN THE BODY. HE WOULD KEEP THE EGGS IN EITHER ONE TEST TUBE IN THE FIRST CULTURE MEDIUM OF BLOOD AND NUTRIENTS, OR POSSIBLY IN SEPARATE TEST TUBES. AN IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT GAS WOULD COVER THE CULTURE MEDIUM IN THE TEST TUBE, DISPLACING AIR. THIS GAS IS THE SAME ONE DESCRIBED BY OUR MEDICAL STRINGER DR. ERIC TRIMMER IN HIS FILE YESTERDAY. IT IS COMPOSED OF FIVE PERCENT OXYGEN, FIVE PERCENT CARBON DIOXIDE, AND 90 PERCENT NITROGEN. THIS IS ALSO THE SAME GAS THAT STEPTOE INTRODUCES INTO THE ABDOMEN BEFORE ASPIRING THE FOLLICLES WITH THE EGGS.

-- AFTER FERTILIZATION, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE EGG WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO A FRESH SOLUTION OF BLOOD AND NUTRIENTS. THERE IT WOULD GROW FOR FOUR OR FIVE DAYS BEFORE BEING IMPLANTED. THE TIME

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LIMIT COULD RANGE UP TO SEVEN DAYS , DEPENDING ON THE PATIENT.  
CLAIM BY BRAND X THAT THE FERTILIZED EGG IS KEPT IN MEDIUM UNTIL  
IT HAS DIVIDED 64 TIMES IS INACCURATE, ACCORDING TO DR. TRINER.  
HE SAYS EGGS GROW AT DIFFERENT RATES AND IMPLANTATION TIME IS  
DETERMINED BY THE PATIENT'S RECEPTIVENESS RATHER THAN THE TOTAL  
NUMBER OF TIMES THE CELL HAS DIVIDED WHICH HE BELIEVES IS IMPOSSIBLE  
TO CALCULATE ANYWAY.

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK WITH YOUR BEST SOURCES. NO ATTRIBUTION  
TO DR. STEELE PLEASE. THE SHIELD OF SECRECY THAT STEPTOE AND  
EDWARDS HAVE THROWN UP IS A PROBLEM FOR US ALL.

SENT 2012 AV

ETX;

CC