

Genetic Factors affecting fertility.

Certain genetic conditions can affect fertility including:

- Klinefelter Syndrome
- Turners Syndrome
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Translocations

Other conditions affecting fertility.

Polycystic ovaries.

Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) is a medical condition that affects 1 in 5 women.

It has health implications throughout a woman's life. These include risks of infertility, endometrial cancer, ovarian cancer, hypertension and cardiovascular disease.

Endometriosis.

Endometriosis is a disease in which the endometrial lining of the uterus implants within the abdomen. This can potentially cause fertility problems.

Early diagnosis of both of these conditions is essential to manage the risks of infertility.

How can Repromed help?

At Repromed our goal is simple ... to do whatever we can to help you realise your dream of having a child.

Our team of specialists aims to identify the cause of your fertility problems in order to recommend the best course of treatment for you.

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Your
fertility status

Your fertility.

For the vast majority of couples, pregnancy occurs naturally within 12 months of trying to conceive.

However, one in six couples have difficulty conceiving in Australia and New Zealand.

Fertility rates are affected by many social components including education, income, delaying child bearing and finding the right partner.

There are also many non-social aspects that may affect your fertility.

What affects your fertility?

- Age
- Obesity
- Smoking
- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)
- Drugs
- Genetics
- Others

The effects of age on fertility.

Both males and females have a reproductive lifespan. As women are born with all the eggs they will ever produce, age becomes an issue. Female fertility declines slightly at 30 years and there is a significant decline around 37 to 38 years of age. By the time a woman is 40 years old her fertility is a quarter of when she was 30. The miscarriage rate increases with age from about one in seven for women aged less than 25 years to about one in two at 40 years of age.

There is a marked lack of understanding of the affects of age on a man's fertility. Male infertility accounts for approximately 30% of all cases treated at Repromed.

The median age of mothers giving birth in Australia in 2006 was 30.8 and the median age of fathers was 33.1 years. In NZ the median age of mothers giving birth to June 2008 was 30 years. This reflects the increase in age of women having children in Australia and New Zealand.

The effects of obesity on fertility.

Obesity increases the risk of heart conditions, diabetes and hormonal imbalances, which can lead to infertility.

Australian National Health Survey 2004 - 05

	Overweight	Obese
1995	29.5%	11.1%
2004/5	32.6%	16.4%

Even a small reduction in weight may improve fertility odds.

How smoking affects fertility.

Smoking can affect the fertility of both males and females, causing erectile dysfunction and increased DNA damage to sperm and eggs.

In 2004-5 in Australia 26% of men and 20% of women smoked. The highest rates of smoking were seen in the 18-24 year old age group for men and the 25-34 year old group for women. Given that the median age of mothers giving birth falls within this age group, many couples are putting their fertility at risk.



Sexually Transmitted Infections affecting fertility.

Sexually transmitted infections may impact a couple's fertility. Infections include:

- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhoea
- Syphilis
- HPV
- Herpes
- Genital warts
- HIV
- Hepatitis B

The effect of drugs on fertility.

Certain drugs have been found to adversely affect male fertility, including:

- Recreational / illicit drugs
- Antihypertensives
- Psychotherapeutic agents
- Chemotherapeutic agents
- Hormones (anabolic steroids)
- Antibiotics

Affects can include:

- Direct gonadotoxic affects
- Alterations in the production and release of hormones
- Erectile dysfunction
- Direct effects on libido