

Letter to the Editor

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Keywords: Ambient, heat stress, IUI, letter, pregnancy, spermatozoa, temperature

Dear Sir,

I refer to the interesting publication of AlShalian et al., 2022, "*There are no IUI pregnancies every year in the month of September. Why?*", *J Reprod Biotechnol Fertil 11:1-10, 2022*". In our IVF Center at the Dr Khalid Idriss Hospital we had 2 IUI pregnancies in 2 patients of 4 treated in September 2021 contrary to AlShalian's report.

*Alaa Mourtaja, MSc
IVF Laboratory
Dr Khalid Idriss Hospital
Jeddah*

Dear Sir,

I read with interest the report of AlShalian et al., 2022, "*There are no IUI pregnancies every year in the month of September. Why?*", *J Reprod Biotechnol Fertil 11:1-10, 2022*." In our IVF Center in Buraydah the IUI pregnancy rate in 2021 was 16% and in September alone it was 12% (n=33).

*Arwa Al Jumah, MSc
Prince Faisal bin Mishaal Fertility Center
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Buraydah, AlQassim
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Dear Sir,

The report of AlShalian et al., 2022, "*There are no IUI pregnancies every year in the month of September. Why?*", *J Reprod Biotechnol Fertil 11:1-10, 2022*," is very interesting. Perhaps the authors could update their findings in another publication in the future by investigating the impact of ambient temperature and other environmental factors such as the logistics of IUI media and medications that could affect IUI treatment outcome in Dammam.

*Ahmad Metwalley, PhD
IVF Laboratory
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Dear Sir,

We thank Mr Alaa Mourtaja, Ms Arwa Al Jumah and Dr Ahmad Metwalley for their comments. Both Mr Mourtaja and Ms Al Jumah have obtained IUI pregnancies in the month of September contrary to our observation. Perhaps the difference in IUI pregnancies between the Dammam and, the Buraydah and Jeddah fertility centers could be due to geographical variations with regard to different ambient temperatures prevalent in individual geographical locations that contributed to the difference in pregnancy outcome. This is worth investigating.

We agree with the suggestion of Dr Metwalley that ambient temperature and other environmental factors may also have a negative impact on IUI Sperm medium and IUI medications which in turn could affect IUI treatment outcome. The detrimental impact of a break in cold chain during the transport and storage of gamete and embryo culture, and handling media is well recognized. We have in fact planned to investigate these factors as well but could not due to constraints that we faced at the time this study was conducted. We realize this factor could impact IUI pregnancies in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and needs to be elucidated conclusively. It would be of interest to undertake a study to determine environmental factors that impact IUI and IVF pregnancies including geographic variations with regard to IUI and IVF treatment outcome across the country in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

*Sawsan AlShalian & Co-workers
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