

# A new lease of life

Elderly couples who had lost their children are getting to live happily again by opting for fertility treatment and being blessed with a child again

SANTOSH ANDHALE

An increasing number of elderly couples who had lost their children under tragic circumstances are finding a new lease of life, thanks to infertility treatment that has blessed them with children again.

The most successful method is in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) in which the ovaluatory process in hormonally controlled and ova and sperm are made to fertilise outside the womb.

Unable to bear the loss of their children, many city couples who have taken recourse to IVF are smiling again.

Take, for instance, Kamlesh Nangia (46), a resident of Byculla railway colony whose 18-year-old son Ritesh died in a bike accident three years ago. A Std 12 student of Lala College, Ritesh was going to Lonavla for a picnic along with his friends when he met with the fatal accident.

Left childless by a cruel twist of fate, the distraught mother decided to go for IVF. She was not disappointed. She was blessed with a girl child, Karishma, who has since grown into a beautiful

lady of 2.

"After our only son Ritesh died in the accident, we felt our universe has collapsed. We were left alone. We did not want to adopt a child as we wanted our own child. Finally, doctors suggested that we go for IVF. We followed the advice and two years ago, I was blessed with the baby girl. We named her Karishma, which means miracle, for it was nothing less than that for us. We are very happy. Very soon, Karishma will

twins drowned in a swimming pool while holidaying in Kerala, have approached us for IVF and ICSI (Intra-Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection), said Dr Ameet Patki, who treated Kamlesh. Patki is the medical director of ReGenesis, Worli.

## OUR LIFE HAS BEEN A GAME OF SNAKES AND LADDERS

Tejal Shah (name changed on request),

Many more couples have approached us for IVF treatment

— Dr Amit Patki  
who treated Kamlesh



be going to a nursery," said Kamlesh, with tears rolling down her face.

"We feel we have started life afresh. All my family members and friends supported our decision and they stood by us," said Kamlesh's husband Ashok Nangia, who works with the railways.

"Another couple, whose 16-year-old

47, was devastated after her 22-year-old daughter Naina succumbed to blood cancer two years ago. Tejal, who stays in Andheri with her exporter husband Dinesh, desperately wanted a daughter again.

Thanks to the infertility treatment, she has conceived again and is now

two-and-half-month pregnant. Tejal is praying that the baby turns out to be girl to fill the void Naina had left behind.

Naina, who died in April 2006, had just completed her graduation in commerce and was about to join her father's business. Dinesh had even got a cabin made in his office for Naina, when she passed away.

The couple have a son who is a final year commerce student at an Andheri college.

"After the loss of our daughter, we had forgotten how to laugh. We even stopped going out for food. I did not even feel like going out on business tours. My wife had turned pale. While on her death bed at Lilavati hospital, Naina had told us she would come back to us. We decided to take a chance with IVF treatment," said Dinesh.

"When we told our son that we are going for the IVF, he immediately agreed. Now, my wife has conceived. We are anxiously waiting for the day when she delivers a baby. It is almost as if we are playing snakes and ladders," added Dinesh.

## WHAT IS IVF

In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) is a major treatment in infertility when other methods of assisted reproductive technology fail. The process involves hormonally controlling the ovulatory process, removing ova (eggs) from the woman's ovaries and letting sperm fertilise them in a fluid medium outside the womb. The fertilised egg (zygote) is then transferred to the patient's uterus.

