FERTILITY JOURNEYS: DONOR EGG IVF... WITH OREGON REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

We are excited to announce the birth of Chris and Anne’s baby girl — the first Fertility Journey baby with Oregon Reproductive Medicine. Now that Chris and Anne close their fertility journey they start the wonderful journey ahead for them as a family!

Anne wrote...

9 weeks to go... this felt both very soon and very far away. Our little girl was due to grow a huge amount in that time and I was to get bigger and bigger.

Having had a rest from appointments, they restarted with a vengeance during this period. The consultant wanted me to have scans every 3 then every 2 weeks to check that she was continuing to grow adequately. I enjoyed these as it meant I could have another peek at my little girl moving around, usually with her feet in front of her face! The midwife also booked me in every 3 weeks for a check-up, blood pressure, a feel of her position and a quick listen to her heartbeat. These were also nice to know that all was progressing normally.

Our ante-natal classes continued for a total of 6 sessions. We enjoyed going to these and continued seeing our group socially afterwards. Our most notable session was having a lesson using knitted breasts and dolls, it was a sight to see with much hilarity. Then they arranged a maternity photo session.

Our last appointment with the consultant was three days before the planned caesarean date. Chris came with me and we discussed our birth plan, some of which was possible and some was not. But having a caesarean meant that much of the normal choices that mothers make were not applicable to us, such as choice of pain relief, location, and position of birth.

We were told that it would not be possible to have skin to skin contact with my daughter immediately but that she would need to be dried and wrapped first. However, Chris would be able to cut the umbilical cord, although he was not so sure about this! Then we signed our consent forms and went off to enjoy our last weekend as a couple...

Caesarean day arrived! We arrived at the hospital at 7am ready to go and slightly nervous about what would happen during the day. After one last blood test, we waited for our turn to go to theatre. We ended up being the last of the three planned caesareans that day so it was not ready and prepared for our little one to arrive.

I had many comments on the thickness of my bump, so I decided to document it properly and arranged a maternity photo session. This I had done 10 days before due date. The session was great fun and we have a selection of gorgeous images with which to remember that, we are still grinning and she is growing and thriving. We had a newborn photo session with the same photographer and now have some gorgeous keepsakes to treasure forever.

After the past 2 years of fertility treatment, a roller coaster of emotions and a happy pregnancy, we had finally realised our dream! Our little bundle of love had arrived!

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till lunchtime that we were taken down. I was majorly hungry by that time to the point of nausea and vomiting. But once we were on our way, adrenaline kicked in and I felt fine again thankfully. The surgical team, midwives and anaesthetists were all wonderful, relaxed and jovial. They scanned my back before placing the spinal needle for the spinal anaesthetic, then my legs felt progressively cold and then numbness spread down to my toes and up to my rib cage. I was worried it would spread too far up and affect my breathing and also that I would not be numb enough, but I need not have been concerned, the anaesthesia was perfect. The screen went up to shield the surgical field, and Chris was by my head dressed in scrubs and a flattering surgical cap! Within a few minutes, my little girl could be heard! A very good pair of lungs she had and wanted to let everyone know she had arrived. In fact, she was given straight to me, still covered in vernix so I did have my skin to skin cuddle straightway! Then she was taken away and washed, swaddled and checked over before coming back to me and Chris. We went out to the recovery room and she had her first suckle on my breast - result!

I was taken to the ward to continue my recovery. It took a few hours before I was able to shower and get into bed and had the use of my legs again. Chris stayed with me until dinner time and we had a visit from the new proud grandparents! Overnight I was woken most of the night trying to keep an eye on my new precious bundle and calling the midwives to help me feed her every few hours. Quite a

expensive project was interesting; I felt very lucky of success! Hearing about the other ladies’ experiences was interesting; I felt very lucky of success! Hearing about the other ladies’ experiences was interesting; I felt very lucky of success! Hearing about the other ladies’ experiences was interesting; I felt very lucky

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