

## 150-PREIMPLANTATION EMBRYOS AND GLUCOCORTICIDS

Glucocorticoids are used to improve the success rate in assisted reproductive technology (ART) cases. [Zhao et al.](#)<sup>1</sup> (Genome Res.) have done an *in vitro* study of the effects of very early glucocorticoid treatment, in 7-day human embryos.

The rationale for the study was that early embryonic environments can have profound effect on development trajectories in the fetal period and in adult life. They found that glucocorticoid treatment produced no changes in morphology, blastocyst size or cellular composition. However, they report profound molecular changes at the level of gene expression, DNA methylation and small RNAs. Their obvious conclusion is that caution is recommended because of the possible consequences associated with the use of adjuvants and additives in ART and infertility treatment.

1- <https://genome.cshlp.org/content/early/2022/09/16/gr.276665.122.long>