

# Difference Between IVF and Surrogacy

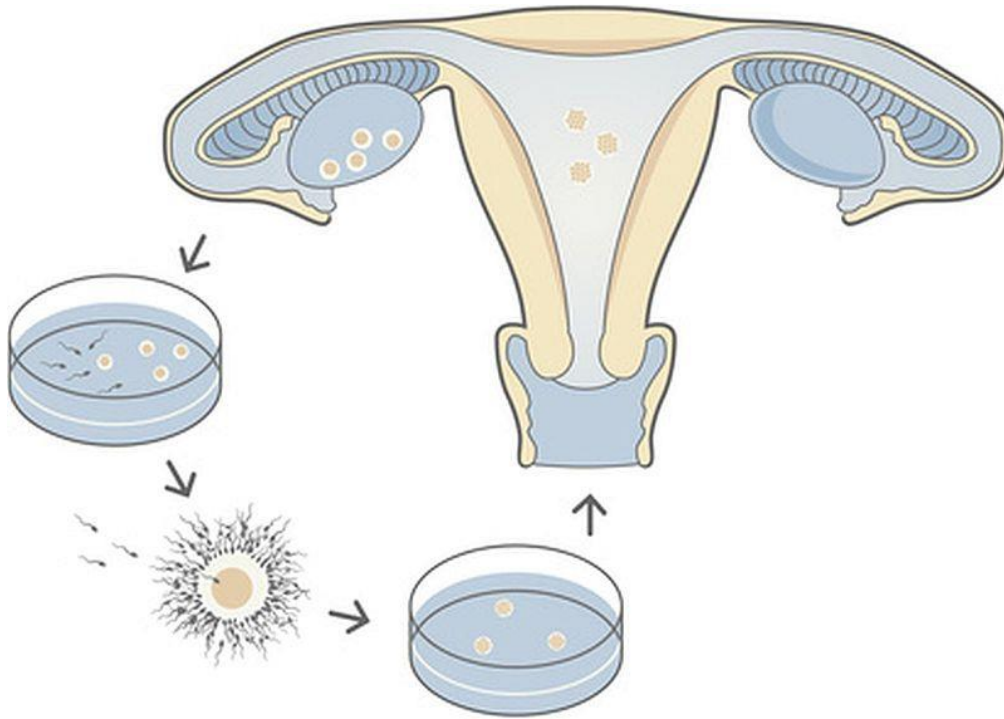
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## Key Difference - IVF vs Surrogacy

The **IVF** or *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) technique is a method where a removed **egg** from a woman is combined with a sperm of a man outside the body most probably in a laboratory. Then the **embryo** will be cultured for some days, and it is transferred to the **uterus** of same woman or another. The surrogacy is the method where a woman agrees to carry a **pregnancy** for another person. The woman who agreed to carry the baby is called a **surrogate** mother. The person who is intended to have a child is known as an intended parent. Ultimately, once after the childbirth, the newborn child's parent will be the intended parent. There are a number of laws in different countries which is regulating the surrogacy. The **key difference** between IVF and Surrogacy is that **IVF or *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) is a method which performs the fertilization of an ovule and sperm outside women's body *in vitro* laboratory conditions while surrogacy is an agreement of a woman to become pregnant for some other person or persons.**

## What is IVF?

The IVF or *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) is a technique where a sperm is combined with an egg outside the body in laboratory conditions. This process is stimulating woman's ovulatory process and removes ovum from the woman's ovary. The removed **ovum** is allowed to fertilize with sperm in a liquid in a laboratory. The fertilized egg (zygote) is cultured in the embryo culture for 2 to 6 days. Then it is transferred to same or another woman's uterus.



**Figure 01: IVF**

*In vitro* fertilization is a kind of assisted reproduction technology in which the fertilized egg is transferred to a surrogate mother and the resulting child is not genetically similar to the surrogate woman. The IVF option is giving rise to the fertility tourism. IVF option is used only when the less invasive and expensive treatments of fertility are unsuccessful. Louise Brown was the first child to be born by the *in vitro* fertilization technique in 1978. Robert G. Edwards was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2010 for developing the technique with coworker Patrick Steptoe. The women who are past their reproductive years can still become pregnant in this fertility treatment method.

## What is Surrogacy?

The surrogacy is a method of agreement where a woman agrees to carry a pregnancy for another person. Thereafter the intended parent legally will be the parent of the newborn child after the birth. The intended parents may take the surrogacy arrangement when the pregnancy is medically impossible or giving risk to the maternal parent. The pregnancy presents extra risks to the maternal parent's health if she is weak. Nowadays single male or male couples who wish to have the child undergo surrogacy. Monetary benefits may or may not involve in the surrogacy plan. If the surrogate mother receives monetary compensation, it is called as commercial surrogacy. If she does not receive any monetary compensation except the reimbursement of medical expenses and other important expenses it is called as altruistic surrogacy.

The legality and cost of surrogacy are different from country to country based on their specific [jurisdiction](#). In some cases, interstate or international surrogacy is also possible. Some couples who wish to have a child under this method but who live under a jurisdiction which not

permits surrogacy, travel to another country that has a jurisdiction which favors the surrogacy. This is also described in surrogacy laws by country and [fertility](#) tourism.



**Figure 02: Surrogacy**

The surrogacy is mainly of two types; 1. Traditional surrogacy 2. Gestational Surrogacy. In the traditional surrogacy, the sperm of the intended father is deliberately introduced into the uterus or cervix of the surrogate mother. This is an [artificial insemination](#) protocol. The resulting child is genetically similar to the intended father and surrogate mother. Sometimes donor sperms are used. So, in that case, the resulting child is not genetically similar to the intended father but genetically similar to the surrogate mother. The gestational surrogacy takes place when an embryo created by in-vitro fertilization technology is implanted in the uterus of a surrogate mother. The resulting child is genetically not similar to the surrogate mother. But many times the resulting child is genetically similar to at least either of the intended parents.

## **What are the Similarities Between Surrogacy and IVF?**

- Both treatments are helping the intended parents who are medically unable to have a child.

- Both techniques are capable of producing child genetically similar to the either of intended parent.
- Both techniques are making valuable contributions to maintain the human existence.
- Both treatments are addressing the infertility issues.

## What is the Difference Between IVF and Surrogacy?

IVF vs Surrogacy	
IVF is a <i>baby</i> developed from an egg that was fertilized outside the body and then implanted in the uterus of the biological or surrogate mother.	Surrogacy is a practice by which a woman (called a surrogate mother) becomes pregnant and gives birth to a baby in order to give it to someone who cannot have children.
Fertilization	
IVF or <i>in vitro</i> fertilization (IVF) takes place outside the body under <i>in vitro</i> laboratory conditions.	In traditional surrogacy, fertilization occurs inside the body of the surrogate mother.
Stimulation of the Ovary Process by hCG	
Stimulating ovulatory process by hCG hormone is a mandatory requirement in the IVF method.	Stimulating ovulatory process by hCG hormone is not involved the traditional surrogacy method.
Damages to Ovaries	
Damages to ovaries are a high complication in the IVF method in laboratory conditions.	Damages to ovaries are not observable in the traditional surrogacy method.
Invasiveness and Expensiveness	
The IVF method is a highly invasive and expensive method.	The surrogacy method is a less invasive and less expensive method.
Similarity of the Baby to Surrogate Mother	
In the IVF method, the resulting child is not genetically similar to the surrogate mother.	In the traditional surrogacy method, the resulting baby is genetically highly similar to the surrogate mother.
Success Rate	

The IVF method is less successful compared to surrogacy in giving rise to a healthy childbirth.	The traditional surrogacy method is highly successful in giving rise to a healthy childbirth.
<b>Artificial Insemination</b>	
The artificial insemination process does not involve the IVF method.	The artificial insemination process involves the traditional surrogacy method.
<b>The Risk to the Egg Provider</b>	
A considerable risk is associated with the egg provider in the IVF method.	A less risk to the egg provider is observable in the traditional surrogacy method.
<b>Aged Women</b>	
The women who are past their reproductive years can still become pregnant in IVF method.	The women who are past their reproductive years are not involved in the traditional surrogacy method.

## Summary - IVF vs Surrogacy

The IVF and surrogacy are two commonly adopted methods which are used to give rise to a childbirth at the time of medically impossible instances. The IVF or *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) technique is a method where a removed egg of a woman is combined with a sperm of a man outside the body in laboratory conditions. Surrogacy is a technique or an agreement where a woman agrees to carry a pregnancy for another person. The surrogate mother may or may not receive the monetary benefits or compensation. This is the difference between IVF and surrogacy.

### Reference:

1. "IVF Procedure – Sarvamangal IVF." Sarvamangal IVF. [Available here](#)
2. "What's Gestational Surrogacy with Egg Donation? - Cost & Success." InviTRA, 21 Nov. 2017. [Available here](#)
3. "Surrogacy." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 26 Nov. 2017. [Available here](#)

### Image Courtesy:

1. 'In-vitro fertilization (IVF)' By MartaFF, [\(CC BY-SA 4.0\)](#) via [Commons Wikimedia](#)
2. 'pregnant woman with maternity shirt and baby sticker' by [Personal Creations \(CC BY 2.0\)](#) via [Flickr](#)

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