



## Media Release

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25 March 2010

### **Baby after cancer**

**A Melbourne woman has overcome cancer to have a baby, thanks to ground breaking treatment at the Royal Women's Hospital.**

The woman was diagnosed with cancer of the lining of the uterus, or endometrial cancer, in 2007.

Endometrial cancer is thought to be caused by a progesterone deficiency or oestrogen dominance in the body.

She was initially advised that the most effective resolution was a hysterectomy. However, as she and her husband planned to start a family, they opted for a second opinion.

Consultant Gynaecologist, Dr Deborah Neesham at the Women's, decided to treat the cancer conservatively through the implantation of an IUD that would release high doses of progesterone.

The IUD resolved the cancer and the woman started a course of IVF. However, the cancer recurred, and the patient resumed progesterone therapy, in tablet and cream form.

In August 2008 she was given the all clear to try again for a baby. She maintained progesterone therapy, and waited for her menstrual cycle to resume. A month later, she found she was pregnant naturally. The couple's son was born in July 2009.

"I conceived when I was 42 and I had a perfect pregnancy," she said.

"The first specialist I saw said to give up hope of having a child. He suggested a full hysterectomy. I am so glad I insisted on a second opinion."

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*For more information contact:*

Robyn Anns, Media Manager, the Royal Women's Hospital – 03 8345 2953, 0419 128 400.