

UU LEM NYK BAS

MIS:TEST TUBE BABY

FIRST CUBAN TEST TUBE BABY BORN

HAVANA, DEC 22; REUTER -- A TWENTY-NINE YEAR WOMAN, VICTORES HERNANDEZ, GAVE BIRTH TO CUBA'S FIRST TEST TUBE BABY, A BOY WHO WIEGHTED FIVE AND A HALF POUNDS (2.414 KILOGRAMS) AT THE GONZALEZ CORO MATERNITY HOSPITAL HERE.

RINA'S FALLOPIAN TUBES HAD BEEN BLOCKED BY A MISCARRIAGE AT THE AGE OF FOURTEEN. DOCTORS STIMULATED HER OVARIES TO PRODUCE SUPEROVULATION WHICH THEY MONITORED WITH ULTRASOUND AND OTHER MODERN PROCEDURES. THE OVULE WAS THEN FERTILIZED IN A TEST TUBE WITH THE SPERM OF HER HUSBAND AND REIMPLANTED IN HER WOMB.

THE ARTICLE IN GRANMA DESCRIBING THE BIRTH CREDITED THE BRITISH DOCTORS R. EDWARDS AND P. STEPTOE WITH BEING THE PIONEERS IN TEST TUBE FERTILIZATION.

CONTRASTING THE FACT THAT ALL MEDICAL CARE IS FREE OF CHARGE IN CUBA, THE ARTICLE SAID THAT IN THE UNITED STATES IT COSTS SEVENTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE FIRST ATTEMPT AT FERTILIZATION

AND FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR EACH ADDITIONAL ATTEMPT.

CUBA'S FIRST SUCCESSFUL TEST TUBE PREGNANCY WAS PERFORMED BY A TEAM OF SPECIALISTS UNDER DR. NIEVEN ANDINO OF THE SPECIAL TEST TUBE FERTILIZATION GROUP OF HAVANA'S INSTITUTE OF ENDOCRINOLOGY.

--REUTER/LEM

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