

Ovaries Removed But Singapore Woman Gives Birth

Melissa Pang - Straits Times | May 31, 2012

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Singapore. A cancer patient has given birth despite having both ovaries removed, in what is believed to be the first such case in Singapore.

Ang Ying Chun had a son called Jayrius last Friday, three years after being diagnosed with the disease.

The 24-year-old was able to become a mother because doctors extracted eggs from one of her ovaries after it was taken out.

They were then fertilized using her husband's sperm and the embryos were frozen until she was well enough for them to be implanted in her womb.

"I am really happy that I have a baby — contented and very lucky," said the administrator, who lives in Jurong West with husband Tan Kwang Pang, also 24.

Ang's cancer was first discovered in her right ovary, which was removed. But after seven months of chemotherapy, the disease returned in her left one.

Doctors at KK Women's and Children's Hospital took out the second ovary, and embryologist Ethiraj Balaji Prasath extracted immature eggs.

Three became usable embryos, two of which were implanted in Ang last September, resulting in pregnancy. She has one last shot at a second child as a frozen embryo remains in storage.

Thomson Fertility Centre medical director Loh Seong Feei, who helped deliver the child, said Ang was lucky as ovarian cancer patients often lose their wombs as well.

Wong Seng Weng, medical director of The Cancer Centre, said chemotherapy can adversely affect fertility. "Given that the nature of ovarian cancer affects the reproductive system, it is very rare that this patient has a child."

Ang's doctors claim it is possibly a world first and plan to submit the case to two medical journals.

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