

# **Propositions**

of the thesis entitled

**Clinical prediction models  
in reproductive medicine:**

**Applications in untreated subfertility  
and in IVF treatment**

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1. Prediction models in fertility medicine are usually not externally valid [this thesis].
2. External validity of models in fertility medicine can often be approximated by correcting for the difference in overall pregnancy rate between the center in which the prediction model was developed and the external center [this thesis].
3. If referral of the patient took place by a general practitioner or by a gynaecologist, is of significance in predicting the couples pregnancy chances without treatment [this thesis].
4. A synthesis of three existing models for the prediction of pregnancy chances without treatment proved to be superior to the original models [this thesis].
5. Less is (sometimes) more: transfer of one embryo instead of two may increase the chance of singleton pregnancy in IVF [this thesis].
6. Twenty years ago, nobody believed in cosmochemistry. However, this new scientific domain has recently identified a 3.5 billions years old sign of life [Le journal du CNRS – April 2006].
7. Cannabis, the most widely used illegal drug, may adversely affect male and female fertility, and might explain some “unexplained” infertility cases [Prostaglandins Leukot Essent Fatty Acids. 2004;70:189-97 & Fertil Steril. 2006;85:653-60].
8. Obesity is growing into a global epidemic in western countries whereas developing countries are still often confronted with underweight. Both conditions have a negative impact on female fertility.
9. ‘A fact is nothing in itself, it is only meaningful through the idea that is linked to it or through the proof that it provides’ [Claude Bernard].
10. The only case of foreign accent like syndrome in conversion disorder has been reported in Belgium in 2005, where a patient had a prominent French accent in her pronunciation of Dutch. [Behav Neurol. 2005;16:225-31].
11. When mankind has no place left for Mother Nature, perhaps Mother Nature will have no place left for mankind. [Stefan Edberg].

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Rotterdam, 17 November 2006