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# The dangers of fertility drugs

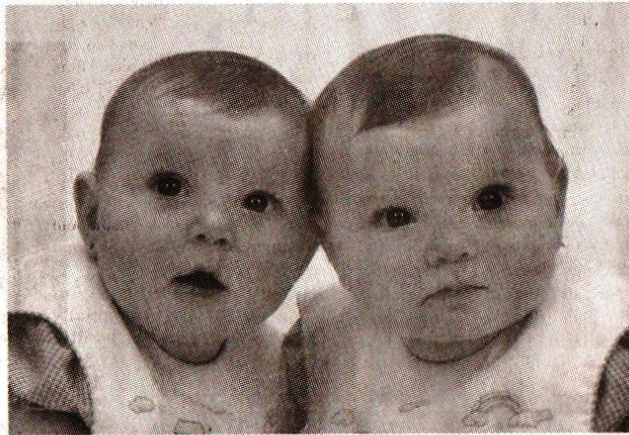
**GIVING** birth as a result of using fertility drugs has become a major hazard in Egypt. According to specialists, use of fertility drugs may lead to the development of cancerous tumours.

The widespread use of fertility drugs in Egypt can be attributed to economic considerations.

People in rural areas, for instance, generally like to have large families of several children, says Dr Naglaa Hussein Youssef, Professor of Embryology.

Many working women in cities also view the matter from an economic perspective. They prefer to have twins, she said. That way they avoid getting a lot of parental leave from work and can save money for their families.

Dr Youssef said that identical twins are not associated with genetic or medical interventions. Non-identical twins, which represent one-third of the twins born, are often produced due to assisted conception treatments such as in vitro fertilisation (IVF) or intra-cytoplasm sperm injection (ICSI), she added. "Each



**IDENTICAL** twins are not associated with genetic or medical interventions, embryologists say.

egg is fertilised with a sperm and a number of fertilised eggs are produced.

They are then kept in a proper atmos-

phere in order to select the fittest to place in the womb", she added

Following production of fertility drugs

and the application of some assisted conception treatments, known as (IVF), embryologists in the advanced states try to keep just one egg to avoid hazards during pregnancy, such as high blood pressure or eclampsia or premature birth, she said.

The fetus, nevertheless, may be exposed to several hazards, such as lack of nutrition due to the presence of several embryos, in addition to breathing problems before its lungs are completed, she added.

In addition there are major problems related to a shortage of incubators at the hospitals. This threatens new born infants with disability and even death.

Using fertility drugs without consulting a specialist could lead to pulmonary oedema, which is an accumulation of fluid in the lungs. In addition, the would-be mother could be exposed to breast cancer.

Using artificial stimulations require careful monitoring by medical specialists to keep the woman and her foetus alive.