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US hospital plans first uterus transplant

In a new development in infertility treatment and organ transplantation process, Cleveland Clinic doctors hope to transplant a uterus from a deceased donor into a woman without one.

This innovative procedure is scheduled to be implemented over the next few months. It would enable a woman with ovaries but no uterus to become pregnant. Doctors said both the donor and recipient would have to have matching blood and tissue types.

According to the NEJM Journal Watch for General Medicine, eight women have already begun the screening process, as they were either born without a uterus or have had their uterus removed or damaged. The hospital plans to conduct trials upon the procedure 10 times

before deciding on whether to continue with it, and as many as 50,000 women in the US are potential candidates for the procedure.

Like any other processes, the transplantation process also has some risks as women must take powerful transplant anti-rejection drugs, undergo surgery to implant the uterus and are likely to face a subsequent surgery to remove the organ after one or two babies are born. The doctors explained that the donor uterus would limit the time spent taking the powerful anti-rejection drugs.

Beginning one year after the transplant, the embryos would be implanted one at a time until a pregnancy is achieved. The baby would be born through caesarean section, so as to reduce strain on the

transplanted organ. The mother can then decide to have her donor uterus removed or stop taking the anti-rejection drugs, as the organ would begin to wither. However, the mother can try to have a second pregnancy.

