

## Study Information/Fact Sheet

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**Study Title:** Pregnancy Complications and Infertility in Surgeons:  
Impact on Surgeon Burnout and Attrition  
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**Version Date:** June 25, 2020

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**You are being asked to take part in this study because you are a surgeon. Before you decide whether to take part, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take the time to read the following information carefully. Please ask questions if anything you read is not clear or if you would like more information.**

Purpose of the Research: The challenges of having children in the surgical profession have been described. Residents having children often face stigma, guilt related to burdening colleagues, and fear of loss of reputation. Early career surgeons, particularly women in their 40's, struggle with burnout and balancing personal and professional duties. This may deter some from starting families in their prime childbearing years, but the risk of delaying pregnancy has not been well defined.

This survey will help us identify and quantify the risk of infertility and pregnancy complications in female surgeons. Your answers will help us understand the personal challenges that surgeons face in starting families. **Male and nonchildbearing surgeons**, your experience with your partner during her pregnancy is just as important. It provides valuable insight on how your profession has impacted your family's experience and provides a control for our female surgeons. Your input will help us recommend organizational change to provide parental support during surgical training and early career.

If you decide to participate in this study, we will ask you to complete a short survey to assess your/your partner's experience with infertility, pregnancy complications, and workplace support for family. Though there is no direct benefit to you, your input will provide information for improving experiences for future surgeons wanting to start families in their prime childbearing years. The survey takes about 5 minutes for those with straightforward pregnancies, and 10-15 minutes for those with more complicated experiences.

Participation is voluntary and may be stopped at any time you wish. Deciding not to participate will not affect your professional standing or evaluations in your department or residency training program. No identifiable information will be collected. You may voluntarily provide your contact information if you are willing to be contacted by the investigators with further questions. Your input will be kept confidential, anonymized, stored in a password-protected database, and reviewed only by the researchers in this study.

This study is approved by Brigham and Women's Hospital, Institutional Review Board. If you have any questions about the study, or if you decide you do not want to participate anymore, please contact Dr. Erika Rangel, at 617-983-7212 or [erangel@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:erangel@bwh.harvard.edu). If you'd like to speak to someone not involved in this research about your rights as a research subject, or any concerns or complaints you may have about the research, contact the Partners Human Research Committee at (857) 282-1900.

**If you are interested in taking part, please follow this link to complete the survey → <https://j.mp/2VkJoib>**

We are grateful for your time and effort. Your answers will help us better understand how infertility and pregnancy complications may impact our surgeons in the US and will move the needle at a national level in creating better support for surgeon with families.

Thank you,  
Erika Rangel, MD