Do we need IVF registries?

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Nearly all European countries report their IVF data to the ESHRE institution European IVF Monitoring. In 2011 > 588,000 cycles were reported; since 1997 EIM collected all in all > 5,886,000. Even reported with different data quality all these data allow a perfect overview how IVF procedures are performed in Europe. The German IVF registry (D?I?R), one of the greatest registries in the world, collected since 1996 nearly 1,252,000 cycles electronically, mostly in a prospective way and an excellent data quality. In contrast to RCTs or MA where usually only one special question is studied in a very selected group of patients those great data collections allow us to observe how the techniques in IVF treatment have changed during the years as well as the different use of urinary and recombinant human gonadotropins and the different GnRH analogue regimen. Furthermore, they give us a perfect overview regarding the different efficacy of the treatments. Political influences are well reflected in those data collections also. In several cases, due to the great number of the collected data, good statistical evaluations are possible with a quite tighter CI as compared to RCT where often small numbers produce a great CI and do not allow to detect clinical and statistical differences.