Cumulative ongoing pregnancy rates after IUI and investigation of factors affecting drop-out

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INTRODUCTION

IUI:

- **frequently and widely used ART technique**
- **easily offered, no stringent laboratory requirements**
- **highly accepted**
- **success expressed as (ongoing) pregnancy rate per cycle**

AIMS

1. **to investigate the treatment from the patients' point of view**

2. **to investigate the factors and reasons for drop-out**

MATERIALS AND METHODS

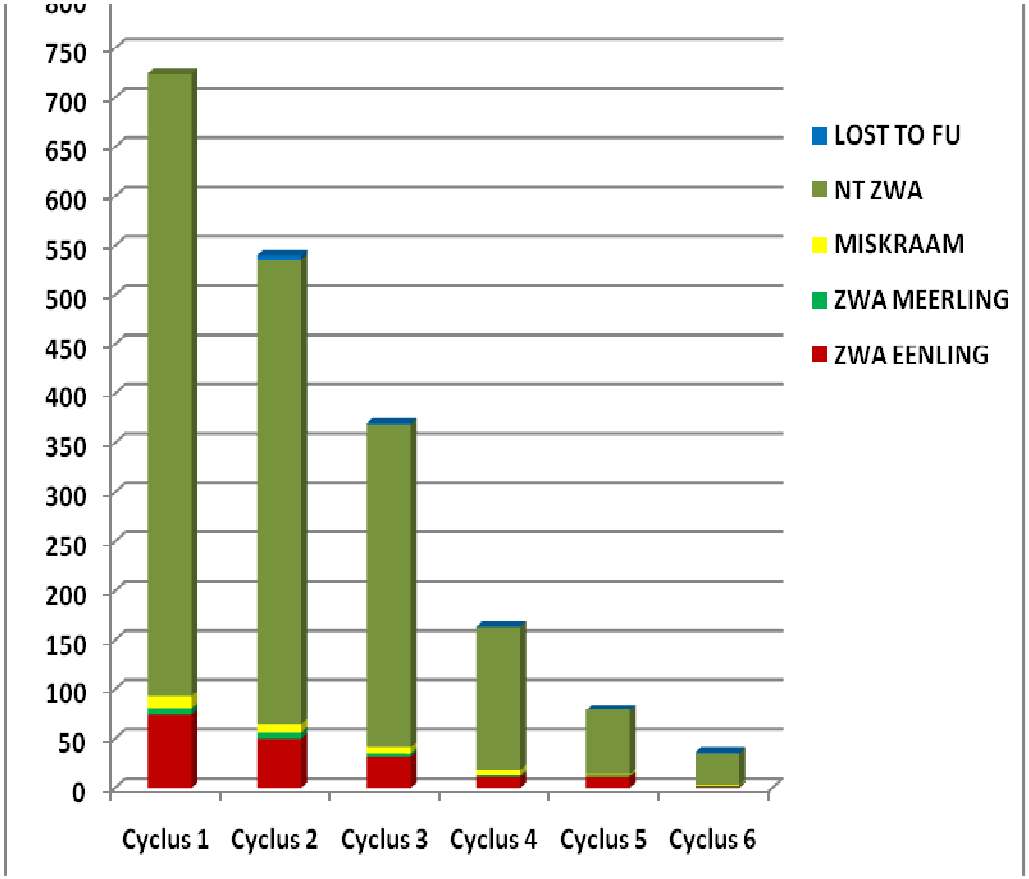
1. **724 patients starting IUI treatment during a ten year period (1999 – 2008)**

   data retrospectively retrieved from database

   subjected to survival analysis (Kaplan-Meier)

2. **cross-sectional study with a semi-structured questionnaire sent to patients who stopped all treatment for longer than 6 months (1/3/2007 – 1/2/2008)**

RESULTS: Number of inseminations per cycle

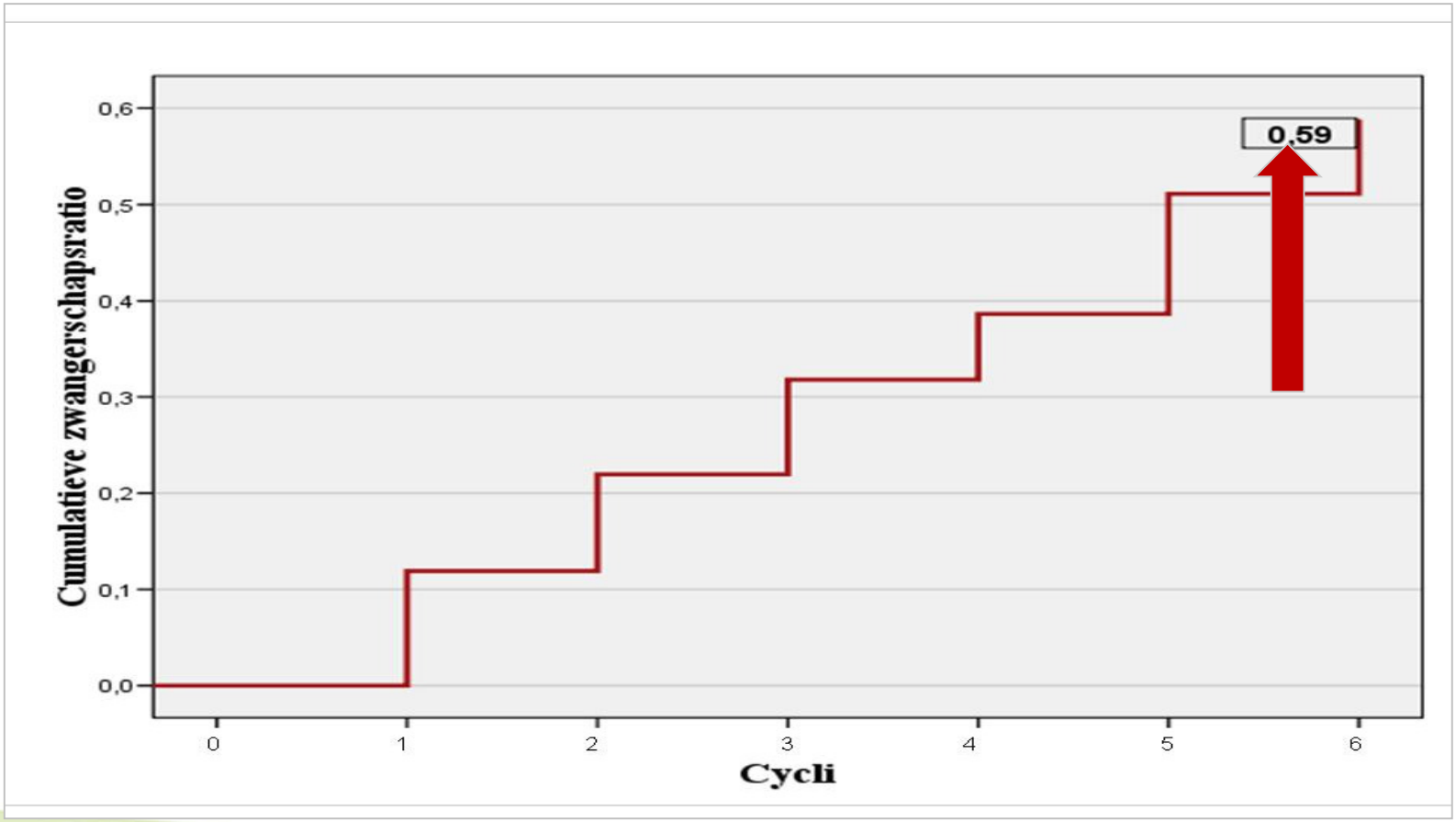


Cycle 1: 724 inseminations (100%)
81 pregnant,
12 miscarriage.

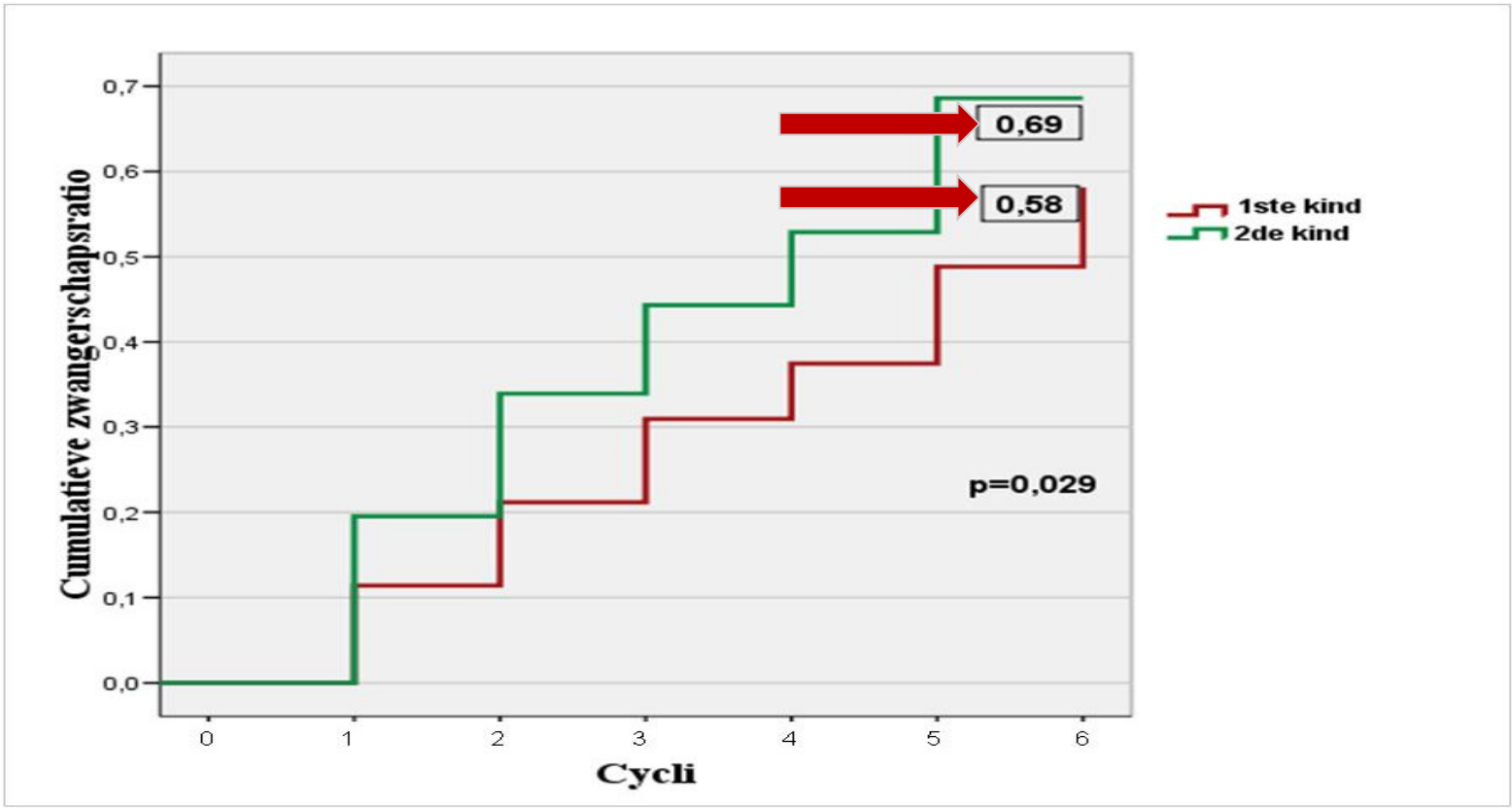
Cycle 3: 370 inseminations (49%)
35 pregnant,
6 miscarriage.

Cycle 6: 36 inseminations (5%)
2 pregnant,
1 miscarriage.

RESULTS: Cumulative ongoing pregnancy rate



RESULTS: Cumulative ongoing pregnancy rate for first and second child



RESULTS: Factors and reasons for drop-out

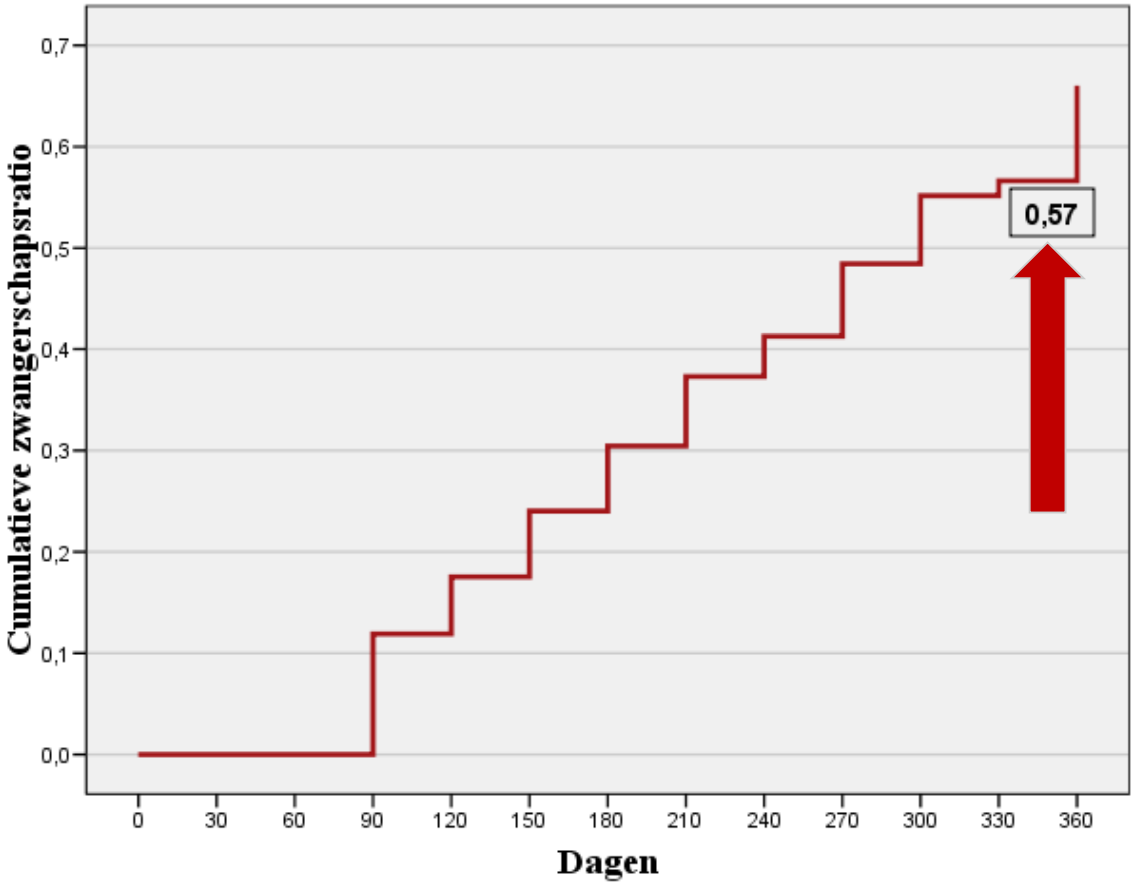
- **39 patients stopped every type of treatment**
- **Response rate = 50%**
- **Mean age: 31 years**

RESULTS: Reasons for drop-out (N = 19):

- **perceived poor prognosis: 9**
- **negative emotional reactions: 7**
- **lack of support: 6**
- **financial reasons: 6**
- **spontaneous pregnancy: 4**
- **adverse physical reactions: 1**

CONCLUSIONS

1. **59% of patients starting IUI treatment had an ongoing pregnancy after 6 cycles**

2. **Although generally perceived as a treatment with minimal effort and side effects, half of the patients who dropped out of all treatment experienced negative reactions and emotions**

Results: Cumulative ongoing pregnancy rate after one year