

## Surgery to repair blocked tubes

Damage to the Fallopian tubes by scarring (adhesions) or blockages cause infertility by preventing the sperm fertilising the egg. Blockages of the Fallopian tube accounts for around 1 in 4 fertility problems in women.

In many cases IVF is likely to offer women a better chance of conceiving than surgery. The key to success is deciding which patient is likely to benefit from surgery. Mr Valentine Akande is an expert in this field having treated numerous patients and published research papers on this topic.

### Does it work?

Surgery can result in a better chance of conceiving naturally without IVF, with significant psychological benefits. It also offers the only treatment alternative to couples who cannot afford or object to IVF on religious, moral or for emotional reasons. Valentine Akande is one of a few recognised experts undertaking this type of surgery in the UK.

If the scarring or blockage in your tubes is not serious, having surgery to repair or remove the damage can improve your chances of getting pregnant naturally and having a baby.

### Can it be harmful?

Any kind of surgery has risks. But having surgery on your tubes isn't more risky than other types of surgery. Women with blocked or damaged tubes are more likely to have an ectopic pregnancy than women with healthy tubes are.

### Surgery before IVF

Before IVF was available, surgery was the only treatment for blocked or damaged tubes. There is good research evidence which confirms that having surgery on your tubes before you have IVF treatment makes it more likely that the IVF will work, particularly if your tubes are swollen with fluid called hydrosalpinges. The chances of IVF success are doubled after such surgery. The surgery will involve either opening and repairing the tube, clipping the tube to prevent harmful fluid affecting the pregnancy or removal of the tube if very severely damaged.