



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

What is “Selective Reduction”?



Education: You knew you were pregnant, but surprise! You are pregnant with 3 – or 4! babies! Having triplets or quads would certainly be overwhelming – and expensive. But then the doctor suggests “selective reduction”. He explains that multiple pregnancies present higher risks of pre-eclampsia (dangerous for the mom), miscarriage, and cerebral palsy for the child. Selective reduction would eliminate one or more of the children-in-utero to produce either a single pregnancy or twins. That is, the doctor

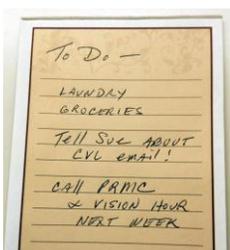
will use ultrasound in guiding a needle into the child’s heart, and inject a salt to stop the heartbeat. The dead child or children are usually left in the womb as the remaining child continues to grow and develop.

Some mothers will refuse do any such thing, and may continue with healthy pregnancies and give birth to healthy babies. Some may feel that their personal risk is too great and agree to the procedure. Still others decide on the basis of simply preserving their lifestyle. In 2012, 60 Minutes in Australia did a story on the procedure. (1) One mother, who had been pregnant with triplets had felt that having triplets “would completely derail my life”. After having just one child, she was able to “maintain my lifestyle, maintain my professional life, and I got to be a hands-on mom.” She didn’t think, at the time of her pregnancy, that she could do that with triplets. Since many multiple pregnancies are a result of in vitro fertilization, selective reduction is also known as the fertility industry’s “dirty little secret”. (1)

1. <https://tinyurl.com/ybzonsbo> (Live Action story by Kelli, “WATCH: Selective reduction just as horrific today as it was six years ago”, Sept 19, 2018.)



Prayer: Dear Lord, please help women facing multiple pregnancies to rejoice in the miracle of partnering with You in the creation of 3 or 4 or even more babies at once. Give them the grace and the resources to continue their pregnancies and give birth to healthy babies. Help them to resist the pressure to kill one or more of their children in order to avoid the increased risk of health problems that comes with multiple pregnancies. Help everyone to understand and accept that every child-in-utero is first of all a living child, and that every child has a unique contribution to make; the world will be less for their absence.



Action: Ask your friends if they know what selective reduction is. Explain that since multiple pregnancies are considered “high risk”, doctors will ask mothers to allow a doctor to reduce their multiple pregnancy to only one or two babies in order to reduce the risk. That is, they kill some of the babies in order to make the pregnancy safer for the mom and other babies. This procedure is another example of children in the womb being treated as disposable if the circumstances aren’t what the parents want.