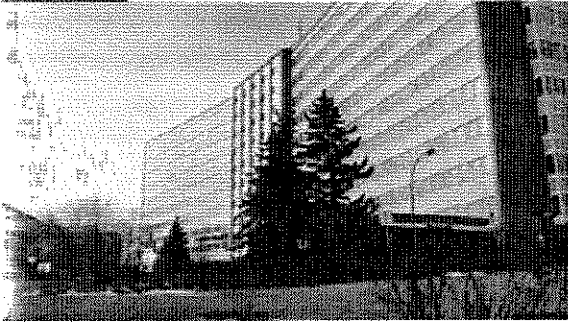


60-year-old Calgary mother welcomes twins

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CBC News



Ranjit Hayer delivered her twin boys at Calgary's Foothills Hospital on Tuesday morning. (CBC)

Ranjit Hayer tried for decades to have a child, enduring multiple miscarriages, surgery, even the trauma of being robbed by a fertility doctor. Finally, after a successful IVF treatment, the Calgary woman gave birth to twins — at age 60.

She is believed to be among the oldest Canadian women to give birth.

Hayer's boys were delivered seven weeks prematurely by C-section at Calgary's Foothills Hospital on Tuesday morning, CBC Radio's *The Current* reported Thursday. The mother is recovering in intensive care, while the twins are in the neo-natal intensive care unit.

One of the babies is breathing with the help of special equipment, while the other boy is in the special care unit. Doctors say both are doing well. The twins will be kept in hospital until they reach a specified weight and can breathe on their own.

'I always said there should be a baby. I had my heart set on it. I wanted a baby.'

— *Ranjit Hayer, new mother*

"My mind was always uneasy. I always said there should be a baby. I had my heart set on it. I wanted a baby," Hayer said from her hospital bed through a Punjabi translator.

"I used to say to my husband, 'Go ahead, marry someone else. You have earned so much.'

"He used to say to me, 'There's nothing wrong with you. If God wants to give us kids, he will.'"

Case raises ethical questions

Hayer's case — especially her age — has raised many ethical questions about how far to push the frontiers of medical science, even from the Calgary specialist who helped her.

"We can do so much but the question is, should we do it just because we can do it?" said obstetrician Colin Birch, who was excited by the challenge but says he has yet to reconcile the social implications.

"It all sounds very fine when this age group — isn't it fantastic what medical technology can do, how we're stretching the boundaries and everything else — but there's so much more involved in this. It's not just having the babies and being born," he told CBC.

"There's not just one generation gap here, there's two generation gaps. They're really what would be like the age of grandparents."

