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Do women have unlimited human eggs? 妇女有无数卵子吗?

美国的医生们说将来有可能通过人工方式来制造无数的卵子来帮助不孕妇女。研究人员发现当他们从妇女的卵巢里提取卵子干细胞时，这些卵子会自动生成新的卵。以下是 **BBC** 卫生事务记者 **James Gallagher** 的报道:

A long-held theory is that women are born with all the eggs they will ever have.

Researchers say they have **shattered** that idea by finding the **stem cells** which produce new eggs. Doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital used unique proteins on the surface of stem cells **to fish them out** of ovarian tissue.

The study, in *Nature Medicine*, showed that growing these cells in the laboratory resulted in new eggs being produced **spontaneously**. Legal and **ethical** rules limit research on human eggs, but the same techniques repeated on mice showed the eggs could be **fertilised** and produce embryos.

The **findings** are a long way from being used in fertility clinics but the researchers said the cells had **unprecedented potential to overcome** infertility. British experts said the study re-wrote the rule book and opened up exciting new possibilities for women.

Questions

1. What's a long-held view about women's eggs?
2. The above theory is being challenged by doctors of which country?
3. True or false: There are some restrictions on research using human eggs.
4. Has this new theory been received positively by British experts?

GLOSSARY

a long-held theory	长期公认的理论
to shatter something	粉碎, 驳斥
a stem cell	干细胞
to fish something out	找出原因
spontaneously	自然地/即兴地
ethical	合乎道德的
to be fertilised	(使) 受孕
findings	发现
unprecedented	史无前例的
to overcome something	克服...

Answers to the questions:

1. What's a long-held view about women's eggs?

Answer: Women are born with all the eggs they will ever have.

2. The above theory is being challenged by doctors of which country?

Answer: America.

3. True or false: There are some restrictions on research using human eggs.

Answer: True. Legal and ethical rules limit research using human eggs.

4. Has this new theory been received positively by British experts?

Answer: Yes it has. They said that it opened up exciting new possibilities for women.