

University of Leeds case study

For Gemma and Keith Baker, it had been a tough road.

The Birmingham couple had been together for 13 years, and tried to conceive a child naturally for four of them.

“It was very frustrating,” said Gemma, 31, who works in a call centre for a cosmetic surgery company. “I was blaming Keith because I wasn’t conceiving, and it was a really difficult time for both of us.

“Every time we went to see the GP, we were just told, ‘Wait another six months, it’ll happen’. In the end, I changed my GP because I felt I was being fobbed off.”

The GP switch paid dividends, as in early 2014, the couple got a referral to take part in the HABSelect trial being led by the University of Leeds, with a site at Birmingham Women’s Hospital.

“We went to a meeting in the new year of 2014, and we wanted to try IVF. We’d never been part of a clinical trial before, so it was all new to us. We had been so devastated by being told that we would never conceive, we were determined to give it a try,” said Gemma

Gemma started her IVF cycle in February 2014, and it wasn’t long before life for her and Keith changed forever.

“One day in March last year, I took a home pregnancy test and it came up that I was pregnant. Even though the test was saying I was expecting, I didn’t believe it until I went for an internal scan at the hospital two weeks later and they found the baby’s heartbeat.”

In late November last year, and despite an emergency Caesarean, Gemma gave birth to Jax, who will be six months old on May 26.

“He’s so wonderful because at one point we were unsure that we would ever have a child, and he’s changed our lives.”

Gemma advised the public to find out more about clinical trials. “We’d never been involved in one before and we still don’t know whether we were part of the intervention group or the blind group, but the researchers running the trial were very professional, explained everything to us and we’re so happy now.”

Further information

Gemma Loveridge is available for interview. Contact Ben Jones in the University of Leeds press office on 0113 343 8059.