

First baby conceived via IVF on live TV introduced on air

Proud parents Jessica Menkhausen and Derek Manion showed off their little miracle on Tuesday's 'Today' show. Their new daughter is 'everything that we hoped and prayed for,' Menkhausen said.

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Jessica Menkhausen and fiancé Derek Manion join the 'Today' show along with their new baby, Chloe, who they welcomed into the world last week.

Chloe Lee Manion is only 8 days old, but she's already a bona fide celeb in her own right.

Chloe's mom, Jessica Menkhausen, underwent in vitro fertilization live on the "Today" show in September — a television first — after trying for nine years to conceive and having two ectopic pregnancies. Accompanied by her fiancé, Derek Manion, the 34-year-old was sedated while Dr. Sherman Silber of St. Luke's Hospital in St. Louis injected Manion's sperm into her harvested eggs in a petri dish, then reinserted the specimen back into Menkhausen.

In October, "Today" show cameras were there when the couple got the good news from Silber that she was pregnant.

And on Tuesday's show, Menkhausen and Manion introduced their little miracle, calling her "the love of our lives and everything that we hoped and prayed for."

Menkhausen endured a 16-hour labor before delivering her baby via C-section. Chloe weighed in at 6 pounds, 5 ounces.

"People thought we were crazy, taking that chance," Dr. Silber told the Daily News about his decision to do the procedure on-air. He said he wasn't nervous to show it live because he was prepared in case it didn't work.

"It was cool that the first case was a success, but our approach from the beginning was, we're not stacking anything. What happens is what happens and that makes it more exciting. ... If it's a story that has a lot of detours, it's OK, as long as there's the truth."

He added that if the first case was not a success, they would try a different approach to give Menkhausen and Manion a baby.

"I'm an optimist," he said. "There's always a next step."

Menkhausen had previously said on "Today" that she wanted to share her story with the world because "there are a lot of other women out there with the same problem," and that she hopes "it will inspire other couples to take that next step" and look into their options.

Menkhausen — who will wed Manion in September — wrote a letter to her little girl saying how happy she was to finally have her.

"This journey started with just hopes and prayers, and now has culminated in you, the most beautiful baby girl I have ever seen and had the pleasure of holding, kissing, and loving," she wrote.

She also wrote that she hopes Chloe will "always follow (her) dreams and never waiver from what (she) wants out of life. ... (Her) father would like for (her) to become a soccer star, but he said he would understand if (she) did not want to play."

Dr. Silber said he has not spoken with the couple since Chloe's arrival but that he always checks in with his patients.

"I'm interested from a medical point of view but also a personal point of view," he said.