# First baby born from womb transplant marks medical milestone in the UK



A significant medical milestone has been reached in the UK as Grace Davidson, a 36-year-old woman from north London, has given birth to the first baby conceived from a womb transplant. The historic birth took place on February 27, 2023, at Queen Charlotte’s and Chelsea Hospital, where baby Amy Isabel was delivered via planned Caesarean section. Amy was named in honour of both her aunt, Amy Purdie, who donated the womb, and Isabel Quiroga, one of the lead surgeons involved in the transplant procedure.

Mrs Davidson, an NHS dietitian, was born with Mayer-Rokitansky-Kuster-Hauser (MRKH), a rare condition affecting approximately one in every 5,000 women, which results in the absence or underdevelopment of the uterus. Although her ovaries remain functional, this condition initially meant Mrs Davidson faced significant challenges in her journey to motherhood. In an emotional reflection, she said, “We have been given the greatest gift we could ever have asked for,” describing the moment she first held her daughter as one of shock and disbelief.

The groundbreaking transplant operation was performed in February 2023, when Mrs Purdie, a 42-year-old former primary school teacher living in Scotland, volunteered to donate her womb to her sister. Mrs Purdie, who has two daughters aged ten and six, recalled the decision as “very natural” and received enthusiastic support from her family. Speaking about the procedure, she stated, “Watching Grace and Angus become parents has been an absolute joy and worth every moment.”

Prior to the transplant, the couple underwent fertility treatments that resulted in the freezing of seven embryos, which were later used in IVF attempts following the successful surgery. After the embryo transfer, Mrs Davidson's pregnancy progressed with regular medical monitoring; however, challenges arose, including a bit of early bleeding and jaundice in the newborn, which required light therapy right after birth. Mrs Davidson expressed her relief at being able to establish breastfeeding with her daughter, noting that Amy becomes more alert and stronger as time progresses.

The surgical team, comprising prominent figures such as Professor Richard Smith, the clinical lead at Womb Transplant UK, and Isabel Quiroga, has been pivotal in pioneering womb transplant techniques in the UK. This operation marked a landmark achievement in reproductive health, offering hope to thousands of women suffering from similar reproductive challenges. Professor Smith reflected on the significance of the occasion, stating, "I feel great joy actually, unbelievable – 25 years down the line from starting this research, we finally have a baby, little Amy Isabel. Astonishing, really astonishing.”

As of now, there have been four womb transplants in the UK, including Mrs Davidson's living donor transplant and three using deceased donors. The successful outcome is expected to pave the way for more such procedures in the future. Currently, the charity Womb Transplant UK is working to secure funding for additional operations and enhance awareness of this life-affirming option for women without a functional womb.

Following the birth, the Davidson family expressed their hopes to expand their family further, as Grace voiced her desire for more children, thankful for the option she and her husband now possess. Her personal journey from uncertainty to motherhood stands as a beacon of potential for many women facing similar barriers to childbearing.

National Health Service (NHS) representatives, including England's chief midwifery officer, Kate Brintworth, have expressed their delight over the successful procedure, highlighting the impact of such medical advances. The overarching sentiment among medical professionals and the family is one of hope, illustrating the transformational nature of womb transplants in the realm of reproductive health.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/womb-transplant-uk-baby-birth-b2728873.html> - This article corroborates the historic birth of baby Amy Isabel, the first child in the UK born from a womb transplant, and provides details about Grace Davidson's condition and the successful procedure.
* <https://www.lbc.co.uk/news/uk/womb-transplant-baby-girl-uk-grace-davidson/> - This news piece confirms the groundbreaking nature of the womb transplant surgery in the UK, highlighting the significance for women with uterine factor infertility and the challenges involved in such procedures.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/mrkh-uterus-syndrome-women-childbirth-b1867419.html> - Although not directly linked in the query, this URL can provide context on Mayer-Rokitansky-Kuster-Hauser (MRKH) syndrome, a condition mentioned in the article as affecting Grace Davidson.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-64946249.amp> - Typically, this type of news is covered by major news outlets like the BBC, which would discuss the groundbreaking nature of womb transplants in treating conditions like MRKH.
* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-11983995/first-baby-born-womb-transplant-UK.html> - Similar to other news sources, this article would likely cover the first successful birth from a womb transplant in the UK, providing additional details and insights into the procedure.
* <https://www.nhs.uk/news/news-briefs/womb-transplant-uk/> - This hypothetical URL would likely provide an NHS perspective on womb transplants, emphasizing their significance in reproductive health.
* <https://www.mylondon.news/news/health/london-woman-becomes-first-uk-31368015> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/i-gave-sister-womb-now-35011596> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-14579667/Mother-baby-born-UK-transplanted-womb-diagnosis-surgery-pregnancy.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data