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Caitlin is a tiny gift from the gods

by Mark Sugden

LUCY Riches lovingly cradles seven-week-old Caitlin and calls her a special gift from the gods.

The 40-year-old Cumnock woman had three children - Kaleigh, Jessica and Hannah - with her previous partner and decided her family was complete.

Coupled in with the fact that she 'got pregnant very easily' she decided sterilisation was the safest and most reliable option.

But, after the successful operation, life changed when she met her new partner Karl and they agreed they wanted a child together.

Lucy said: "When I first made my decision to be sterilised I was confident that, with three young girls, I wouldn't be in a position where I wanted any more children.

"However, situations change and when Karl and I met we realised that we would love a child together. It isn't unusual for the man in a new relationship to have a vasectomy reversal so we decided to look into reversing my sterilisation."

So Lucy went for a reversal - which involved a complex procedure to remove clips that were blocking off tubes. The procedure has around a 50 per cent success rate.

The results weren't instant and, in fact, Lucy feared the gamble had been unsuccessful.

She said: "They sliced open my stomach and it was almost like having a C-section and it's a pretty extensive procedure

"They take the clips away that had been put on when I was sterilised. They cut tissue away and re-attach tubes and it's a form of micro-surgery.

"It was fairly tough and I was sore for a while after it. But we had made the decision that we wanted a child together so it was worth it

"But after trying for six months I didn't get pregnant and really thought it hadn't worked.

"But then, amazingly, I got pregnant and it was such a thrill. It really is in the laps of the gods and we were both delighted.

"Caitlin is healthy and happy and it still very small. She's a lot of work but worth it."

The reversal was carried out at the BMI Park Hospital in Nottinghamshire by Consultant Gynaecologist Clive Pickles who explained: "This isn't an unusual story, lots of people meet new partners and want to start a 'new' family.

"The operation was straightforward but, as in all reversal cases, there is no guarantee it will lead to pregnancy so we were all delighted when Lucy let us know she had given birth to Caitlin."

As for Lucy, she added: "Since my sterilisation I had been suffering from almost constant migraines which some people say can be a side-effect of the procedure.

"Now I am free from headaches and I have a beautiful baby girl - we really couldn't be happier."



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