Rumor: “The COVID vaccine causes infertility and miscarriage.”

This is one of the most powerful rumors I’ve seen floating around online for what seems like forever now. And the thing that gets you - at least, this is what convinced me when I was an anti-vaxxer- is how scientific the anti-vaccine argument sounds when explaining exactly how the COVID vaccine could cause infertility and miscarriage.

The theory goes that the vaccine contains a spike protein called Syncytin-1, which is vital for the formation of the human placenta. Their logic is that if the vaccine causes the body to form an immune response to Syncytin-1, then the body will also attack the placenta.

That checks out at first glance. It sounds sciency!

At the time, it really hit home for me because it made sense. That's the tricky thing about anti-vaccine information. It can make sense and sound extremely detailed and scientific and still be 100% wrong.
Are you ready for this theory to completely fall apart?

A group of independent, reproductive health experts published an article "COVID-19 Vaccine and Infertility: Baseless Claims and Unfounded Social Media Panic" in the American Society for Reproductive Medicine’s Fertility and Sterility Journal. They really got to the bottom of it. First of all, they reassured us that there is no Syncytin-1 in the COVID-19 vaccine, just a spike protein that “resembled” Syncytin-1.

However, anti-vaxxers took this bit of info even further, stating that if the spike protein “resembles” Syncytin-1, then your body will get confused and attack the Syncytin-1 needed for pregnancy, therefore rendering you infertile.

The health experts in that article, however, decided to look closely at the genetic sequences of the spike protein vs Syncytin-1. They found that genetically, the COVID-19 vaccine spike protein is so dissimilar to Syncytin-1, that it’s only as similar as any other protein in the human body is to it!

So...basically...not at all. They are two different genetic sequences and two different proteins.

Knowledge is power. And this argument, while extremely compelling at first, falls apart the minute the science hits it.