



IVF MEDICATIONS AND COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:

Preparing for medication administration:

1. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water
2. Gather your supplies. Check to make sure you have the correct medication, dosage and that it is not expired
3. Review steps for subcutaneous (SQ) injections or intramuscular (IM) injections

Gonal-F

*Pre-loaded pen, comes in 3 strengths
300 IU, 450 IU and 900 IU*

➤ **Injected SQ between 6-8 pm**

Stimulates the ovaries to produce follicles (eggs)

Potential Side Effects:

local discomfort/bruising/redness/and soreness at injection site, abdominal discomfort, bloating and cramping, changes in mood, ovarian cysts, breast pain, back pain, constipation, and headache

Storage:

Before first use: store refrigerated until expiration date or at room temperature for up to 3 months or until expiration, whichever occurs first. **After initial use:** store at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 28 days. Protect from light, do not freeze

NOTE: If dosage window does not read "0" after injection, this indicates there was not enough medication in the pen to deliver the entire dose, and the amount shown is the dosage needed. Using a new Gonal-f rediject pen to complete the dose, dialing the dose documented amount and inject to complete dosage.

Follistim

*Medication cartridge, for use with
follistim pen, comes in 300 IU, 600 IU
and 900 IU*

➤ **Injected SQ between 6-8 pm**

Stimulates the ovaries to produce follicles (eggs)

Potential Side Effects:

local discomfort/bruising/redness/and soreness at injection site, abdominal discomfort, bloating and cramping, changes in mood, ovarian cysts, breast pain, back pain, constipation and headache

Storage:

Before first use: store refrigerated until expiration date or at room temperature for up to 3 months or until expiration, whichever occurs first. **After initial use:** store at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 28 days. Protect from light, do not freeze

NOTE: If dosage window does not read "0" after injection, this indicates there was not enough medication in the pen to deliver the entire dose. Document the amount that appears in the dosage window, replace the cartridge and needle, dial pen to the documented amount and inject to complete dosage.

Menopur

*Comes in vial of 75 IU of powdered medication to be mixed with 1 ml of diluent, * if your dosage is 125 IU, use two vials of powder and mix with 1 ml of diluent*

- **Injected SQ between 6-8 pm, or same 2-hour window every day**

Menopur is a gonadotropin that contains a combination of follicle stimulating hormone and luteinizing hormone that stimulates the ovaries to produce eggs

Potential Side Effects:

Local discomfort/bruising/redness/and soreness at injection site, changes in mood, headache, abdominal discomfort, nausea, bloating and cramping, excessive enlargement of the ovaries, called ovarian hyper-stimulation (OHSS) may occur, symptoms of OHSS include excessive fluid retention and severe abdominal discomfort.

Storage:

Store at room temperature or refrigerated, protect from light. **Use immediately after reconstituting/mixing.** Discard unused diluent.

NOTE: The diluent vial of normal saline/0.9% sodium chloride contains excess diluent, ONLY use 1 ml of diluent

Novarel / Pregnyl / HCG

Vial of powdered medication to be mixed with 1 ml of diluent

- **May be injected SQ or IM, *VERIFY WHICH INJECTION TYPE YOUR DOCTOR HAS ORDERED***
- **An EXACT time will be given for injection**

A natural steroid hormone produced during pregnancy. It is given SQ or IM, depending on your treatment protocol. It is used to induce egg maturation and trigger ovulation (the release of an egg(s) from the ovary)

Potential Side Effects:

Though rare, it is possible to have some discomfort at the injection site as well as some mood changes, headache, bloating/edema, nausea and vomiting

Storage:

HCG 10,000 Units Vial – store at room temperature. After reconstituting/mixing: Refrigerate and use within 60 days.

Novarel 5,000 Units Vial – check your dosage, may use 2 vials for 10,000 units - store at room temperature. After reconstituting/mixing: refrigerate and use within 30 days.

Pregnyl 10,000 Units Vial – store at room temperature. After reconstitution/mixing: refrigerate and use within 60 days.

Ganirelix

Pre-mixed, pre-filled syringe

- **SQ injection – you will be given an EXACT time for injection**

Helps prevent ovulation (suppresses LH and FSH secretions to allow for the eggs to reach the level of development needed for fertilization)

Cetrotide

Vial contains 0.25 mg of powdered medication packaged with pre-filled syringes of diluent

- **SQ injection - you will be given an EXACT time for injection**

Ganirelix continued:

Potential Side Effects:

Headache, abdominal pain, nausea

Storage:

Store at room temperature, protect from light

Cetrotide continued:

Given over a short period of time in the cycle when the LH surge can occur. Its blocking effect allows for eggs to reach the level of development needed for fertilization.

Potential Side Effects:

Headache, abdominal pain, nausea, injection site reaction, redness, itching, swelling

Storage:

Store refrigerated, use immediately after reconstituting/mixing

Ovidrel

Pre-filled syringe

- **SQ injection – you will be given an EXACT time for injection**

It is used to trigger ovulation and promote final maturation of eggs in the ovaries

Potential Side Effects:

Some discomfort at the injection site, mood changes

Storage:

Store refrigerated until expiration date or at room temperature for not more than 30 days. Protect from light. Do not freeze.

Microdose Lupron

Multi-dose vial

Dose: 10 or 20 units two times daily

- **SQ injection**
- **Given two times daily, 7 AM and 7 PM**

Is used to reduce the amount of estrogen and testosterone in the body. This decrease in estrogen production will prevent ovulation.

Potential Side Effects:

Hot flashes, sweating, mood swings, vaginal dryness, decreased libido, nausea, vomiting, breast tenderness, insomnia, headaches, injection site reaction (redness, itching, and swelling at the injection site).

If you experience an allergic reaction – difficulty breathing; closing of your throat; swelling of your lips, tongue or face; or hives; seek emergency medical attention immediately. And if at any time you experience bone pain, difficulty urinating, numbness, tingling or weakness in the arms or legs contact your physician immediately

Storage:

Store at room temperature. Do not freeze, protect from light.

Lupron

(leuprolide acetate)

pre-mixed vial for multiple doses

- **SQ injection using insulin syringe**
10 units=0.1 ml
- **Inject in the AM, Keep time consistent**

Lupron can either be used as part of the process to stimulate multiple eggs for IVF or it can be used to trigger the final maturation of the eggs during a GnRH antagonist IVF cycle

Potential Side Effects:

Hot flashes, sweating, mood swings, vaginal dryness, feeling of weakness, decreased libido, nausea, vomiting, breast tenderness, insomnia, headaches, injection site reaction (redness, itching, and swelling at the injection site).

If you experience an allergic reaction – difficulty breathing; closing of your throat; swelling of your lips, tongue or face; or hives; seek emergency medical attention immediately. And if at any time you experience bone pain, difficulty urinating, numbness, tingling or weakness in the arms or legs contact your physician immediately

Storage:

Store at room temperature. Do not freeze, protect from light. Once vial is pierced, must be used within 28 days.

Progesterone injection in sesame oil

- **IM injection**
- **For Fresh Embryo Transfers: Start 2 days after TVOR, administered AM or PM but be consistent**
- **For Frozen Embryo Transfers: Will start administration 7 days prior to transfer**

Helps prepare the lining of the uterus for implantation of the fertilized egg. Provides progesterone support

Potential Side Effects:

Possible delay in the onset of your period, nodules (small, hard bumps) in the skin; pain, irritation, or redness at the injection area; allergic reactions to the progesterone but more commonly to the particular oil used

Storage:

Store at room temperature. Do not refrigerate.

Vaginal Progesterones

Crinone 8% - packaged with individual applicators

May need to do a vaginal sweep with finger every other day to remove any gel that has clogged/hardened in vagina when using Crinone

Endometrin – packaged as a table that is inserted with an applicator

Progesterone Suppositories 100 mg or 200 mg

- Vaginal progesterone suppositories are administered vaginally where it is absorbed locally. It prepares the uterus to receive a fertilized egg for implantation. Once a fertilized egg is implanted, progesterone acts to maintain the pregnancy.

Potential Side Effects:

Vaginal discharge with any vaginal progesterone use; possible delay in the onset of your period, breast swelling and tenderness, constipation

Storage:

Crinone 8% vaginal gel: Store at room temperature. Insert vaginally.

Endometrin 100 mg vaginal inserts: Store at room temperature.

Progesterone Capsules: Store at room temperature. *contain peanut oil and should never be used by patients allergic to peanuts.* May be used vaginally and/or orally as directed by your physician.

Progesterone Vaginal Suppositories: Store at room temperature or may refrigerate. Please remove outer casing before inserting vaginally.