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**Consent for Clomiphene Citrate Cycles**

**Not all patients will be using all of the medications or procedures described here.**

**CLOMIPHENE CITRATE** (Serophene, Clomid)

Clomiphene citrate is a synthetic, oral medication that acts on the pituitary gland to stimulate the production of hormones that can then stimulate the ovary to produce follicles.

Side effects

Clomiphene, being a partial anti-estrogen, may cause symptoms of estrogen deprivation such as hot flashes and headaches (10% of patients)

Other possible symptoms (which occur in 6% or less of patients) include:

- ? Visual-blurring, spots or flashes                      ? Nausea and vomiting                      ? Abnormal uterine bleeding
- ? Abdominal or pelvic pain, weight gain                      ? Breast discomfort
- ? Other side effects, **including allergic reactions**, have been reported but with an incidence of less than 1%

Miscarriage, Stillbirth, and Fetal congenital malformations (Birth defects)

The risk of miscarriage or stillbirth does not appear to be related to the use of clomiphene. The incidence of miscarriage in clinical trials was approximately 20% and the risk for stillbirth was 1%. Clomiphene is considered pregnancy **Category X**. Its use is contraindicated in women who are already pregnant. Studies in rats and mice have shown a dose-related increase in some types of malformations and an increase in mortality. **Studies in human beings do not support an association between clomiphene and congenital defects.**

**HUMAN CHORIONIC GONADOTROPINS, hCG** (Ovidrel, Profasi, Pregnyl)

Chorionic gonadotropins are injectable medications containing the hormone hCG which is normally produced by the placenta during pregnancy. Chorionic gonadotropins are produced by isolating and purifying these hormones from the urine of pregnant human women. There are small amounts of urinary proteins contained in the preparations. There are no known cases of disease being transmitted of one person to another through these medications.

HCG is used primarily to trigger ovulation (maturation and eventual release of the egg) in women attempting pregnancy. It is also used to help support a potential or existing pregnancy by augmenting progesterone production from the ovary after ovulation (corpus luteum) and to support follicle growth during ovulation induction.

Side effects

Recombinant hCG is given subcutaneously. Urinary hCG may be given as an intramuscular or subcutaneous injection. It is possible to have pain, rash, or swelling at the injection site. When given subcutaneously, urinary hCG may cause more local swelling, redness or irritation.

Other possible symptoms include:

- ? Abdominal or pelvic pain, weight gain                      ? Breast discomfort
- ? Nausea and vomiting                      ? Abnormal uterine bleeding
- ? Other side effects, **including allergic reactions**, have been reported but with an incidence of less than 1%

Miscarriage, Stillbirth, and Fetal congenital malformations (Birth defects)

The risk of miscarriage or stillbirth does not appear to be related to the use of Chorionic gonadotropins. Chorionic gonadotropins are considered pregnancy **Category X**. Combined use of hCG with PMSG (pregnant mare serum gonadotropin) has caused a high incidence of external congenital anomalies in mice. **Studies in human beings do not support an association between gonadotropins and congenital defects.**

**PROGESTERONE** (Crinone, Progesterone-in-oil, Prometrium, Progesterone Suppositories)

Progesterone is a steroid hormone normally produced by the ovary after ovulation and by the placenta during pregnancy. It is used primarily to induce the menses in anovulatory women and to help support the early pregnancy.

Crinone contains micronized progesterone in an oil and water emulsion called polycarbophil. Progesterone injections contain an oil base (either sesame or peanut oil).

Side effects

Possible symptoms include:

- ? Abdominal or pelvic pain, cramps                      ? Breast discomfort
- ? Nausea and vomiting                      ? Abnormal uterine bleeding
- ? Fatigue, drowsiness, depression                      ? Muscle or joint ache
- ? Bloating, weight gain, fluid retention. Conditions which might be influenced by this (epilepsy, migraines, asthma, cardiac or renal dysfunction) require careful observation

