

## Stimulated Cycle IVF

Stimulated Cycle IVF is the most common form of IVF performed in the United States. Some clinics offer only traditional IVF and very few (including Southeastern Fertility) offer all three options (NC IVF, Mini-Stim IVF and Stimulated Cycle IVF).

There are several medications that are involved in stimulating the growth of more than one egg. Depending on a patient's medical history, a slightly different protocol may be offered. Because each woman responds uniquely, our protocols are tailored to a patient's individual needs. Each patient's individual protocol will be described to her prior to proceeding with any ART treatment.

For most women, the medications given to stimulate eggs for ART are started 7 to 10 days before the woman's period begins. The fertility drug Lupron is started 7 to 10 days before a woman's period or while taking oral contraceptives. Lupron is an injection given into the superficial fat layer of abdomen every day until ovulation.

Shortly after your period starts fertility drug injections of FSH (Follistim, Gonal-F) and/or HMG (Menopur or others) will be started. Some of the medications are subcutaneous injections, while others are intramuscular (IM).

Your response to these injections is very individual, and is monitored by ultrasound and blood estrogen levels every 1 to 3 days. Most women respond well to fertility injections. However, some women over respond or under respond. For patients who over respond, a cycle may need to be canceled. We never wish to cancel cycles and will always try to recommend an ovulation protocol that will not result in over stimulation. On the other hand, some women under respond by producing only one or two eggs.

Most cycles will result in 6-15 eggs retrieved and 1-2 embryos available for embryo transfer. Often more than 2 embryos are available on the day of transfer we can freeze those additional embryos for use in a future cycle. The cost of ovarian stimulation drugs can run to about \$3,000-\$5,000 per treatment cycle.

## SUMMARY

**COST:** About \$12,000

**MEDICATIONS USED:** Daily shots or Lupron, daily shots of Gonal F/Follistim/Menopur, hCG trigger shot, progesterone injections.

**GOAL:** Retrieval of 6-15 mature eggs

**RISKS:** Over response to fertility medications leading to cancellation prior to embryo transfer with freezing of all embryos. Under response to medication with only 1-2 follicles growing.

**BENEFITS:** High pregnancy rates, extra embryos available for embryo cryopreservation (or extra eggs frozen for future use).

### BEST CANDIDATES:

Diagnosed with blocked or damaged Fallopian tubes

Diagnosed with severe endometriosis

Diagnosed with male factor infertility

Diagnosed with unexplained infertility

### OTHER CANDIDATES:

Patients who have failed multiple NC IVF or Mini-Stim IVF treatments

Patients wishing freeze extra embryos