What is Ovulation Induction?

Ovulation induction is a treatment of follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) injections used to stimulate ovulation (egg production). It is used for patients with polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) when Clomiphene (clomid) or Letrozole (Femara) tablets have not induced ovulation.

Benefits

Ovulation induction allows women who do not ovulate normally an opportunity to ovulate and have a chance of conceiving. Its success depends on timing intercourse to take place when ovulation occurs.

Monitoring the response to treatment is therefore a vital part of the programme, to maximise the chance of a successful pregnancy and to minimise the risks of the treatment.

Alternatives

The alternatives of Ovulation induction are:

- Treatments Intrauterine Insemination (IUI).
- IVF treatment which is much more effective but, carries more risks.

What happens in the Ovulation induction procedure?

1. Drug treatment begins at the start of the menstrual cycle to encourage eggs to mature. Usually these are gonadotrophin injections stimulating the ovaries to produce follicles and cause ovulation. You will be taught how to administer the injections at the start of the treatment.

2. A week after drug treatment has commenced, you will be invited to have regular ultrasound scans to check the development and growth of any follicles. When your ultrasound scan shows one to three follicles that have reached their target size, you will be asked to give yourself a final injection of HCG (trigger injection) to induce ovulation.

3. You will be advised by the unit staff of likely timing of ovulation and advised to have regular intercourse over the next couple of days.

4. You will be asked to carry out a pregnancy test two weeks following the HCG injection unless your period has already started.

5. If the test is positive, we will arrange a scan for you in a couple of weeks to ensure all is well.

6. If the test is negative, then you may contact the ward on the first day of your period if you wish to proceed with another cycle of treatment.

You may make an appointment following any cycle if you wish but after three cycles we would ask you to make an appointment to discuss further options.
Risks
The risks involved in having Ovulation Induction are:
- Ovarian hyper-stimulation
- Multiple pregnancy
- Failure to conceive.

The Unit Counsellor can be contacted for support at any time, throughout your treatment and afterwards. The telephone number is 01942 264308.

Contact information
If you have any worries or concerns or need some advice, please do not hesitate to contact the nursing staff at:
Fertility Fusion,
Wrightington Hospital,
Tel: 01942 264018/4156 (Monday to Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm)

Out of hours contact:
Swinley Ward,
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Tel: 01942 822568
Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?

How We Use Your Personal Information

For details on how we collect, use and store the information we hold about you, please take a look at our “how we use your personal information” leaflet which can be found on the Trust website: www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient_information/Leaflets/default.aspx

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille and other languages upon request. For more information call 01942 773106.