



## Cycle Monitoring

**Definition:** We rely on ultrasound and hormone testing, as well as the use of ovulation prediction kits (OPKs) to evaluate your menstrual cycle. This cycle monitoring allows us to track your menstrual cycle and determine if and when ovulation is occurring. In addition, the information gathered during cycle monitoring is used by our fertility specialists to determine the dosage and proper timing of fertility medications.

**Purpose:**

- a) Monitor your menstrual cycle, using blood tests, urine tests and ultrasounds;
- b) Determine the correct time for procedures (when applicable);
- c) Manage medication dosage (when applicable); and
- d) Track for ovulation.

**Process:**

- 1) Please call the clinic at (905) 634-4440 and choose the booking line on the first day of your period (full bleeding, not spotting). Your name will be placed on a list and your chart will be reviewed by a physician. A receptionist or nurse will call you back latest by 3pm on your cycle day two to let you know if there is a spot available to move forward with your treatment cycle that month.
- 2) Please follow your checked plan below. We require that infectious disease screening for you and your partner (if applicable) has been completed within one year, before treatment start. If you want to know when your screening needs to be repeated, please ask a nurse.

	For natural monitoring (no medication) book for Cycle Day 10 monitoring (unless otherwise instructed).
✓	For a cycle with oral medication book for Cycle Day 10 monitoring (unless otherwise instructed) Please take ___ pill(s) of your medication from day 3 to day 7.
	For a cycle with injections (FSH) book for cycle day 3 monitoring. At this visit, you may pick up your medication. Injection teaching videos can be viewed on our website.
<b>* When booking your first appointment, please let reception know if you are monitoring for an intercourse cycle or insemination cycle.</b>	
*Please be prepared to attend approximately 1-3 visits during your monitored cycle. The number of visits will depend on your individualized cycle plan.	

If at any point during Cycle Monitoring you have any questions about the process or your individual treatment, please call one of our nurses at 905-634-4440. We strive to make cycle monitoring morning appointments as efficient as possible. To ensure that all patients can finish their visit safely and in a timely manner, these monitoring

appointments will be brief. You will meet with a nurse on your first cycle monitoring visit, and she will give you your treatment plan. You will be provided with all your medications for the cycle, during that visit. If you require more medications during your cycle, you must call the clinic to make arrangements to pick-up more medication. In depth questions will be answered at follow-up appointments with your primary physician.

3) At your Cycle Monitoring Appointment:

- a. Upon entry to the clinic,
  - i. You will proceed to check-in with the receptionist
  - ii. Don't forget your health card! You will be asked to swipe it at the front desk.
- b. Blood draw
  - i. A Phlebotomist (blood technician) will draw your blood for testing which will analyze your hormone levels;
  - ii. Your blood test results will be reviewed in the afternoon
  - iii. Nursing will only call you if there are changes to your cycle plan.
- c. Pelvic Ultrasound
  - i. A sonographer (ultrasound technician) will call you for your ultrasound;
  - ii. Our reception staff will notify you if a FULL bladder is required for your first cycle monitoring visit;
  - iii. The ultrasound will assess your ovaries and uterus;
  - iv. After your ultrasound on your first visit, you will be directed to a room to meet with a nurse. For every subsequent visit, you will leave directly after your ultrasound.
  - v. A nurse will call you after your visit only if your results need to be reviewed with you or if changes to your plan are made.

4) After 3 cycles of your treatment plan if you are not pregnant we recommend that you:

- a. **Re-assess your treatment plan**
- b. If you do not already have a plan for your subsequent treatment step, please book an appointment with your primary physician.
- c. If you have questions about your treatment, please book an appointment with your primary physician
- d. If you have a treatment plan and would like to continue with your plan, you may do so without an appointment with your primary physician.

\*You may be asked to see your primary physician sooner in some circumstances

# Letrozole/Femara

**Letrozole** is a drug commonly used in fertility treatment. It is sold under the trade name Femara. **Letrozole** is part of a family of drugs called aromatase inhibitors. Essentially it works by causing your body to produce more of the hormones that stimulate the ovaries. Letrozole/Femara is used at ONE Fertility for several reasons. First, this drug can be used to induce an egg or eggs to develop and be released in women who are not ovulating on their own. Second, this drug can also be used to increase the chances of pregnancy in women who are already ovulating. Third, this drug can be used to lower Estrogen levels when medically indicated. This drug can be used on its own or in combination with other medication. \*Please book a follow up with your doctor if you have tried this medication 3 times without success!

**Letrozole/Femara pregnancy success rates per treatment.** Please speak to your doctor about your specific success rate. There are various factors that influence success rates. Some factors include age, treatment plan, and diagnosis.

## **Letrozole/Femara Risks:**

- Under response to medication, ie no egg develops, which will result in cycle cancellation
- Over response to medication, ie multiple eggs develop, which will result in cycle cancellation
- Twins or multiple pregnancy

## **Letrozole/Femara side effects:**

Letrozole/Femara works based on its ability reduce estrogen levels. Low estrogen levels can cause a woman to have symptoms. Some possible side effects include:

- Hot flashes
- Headaches
- Breast tenderness
- Trouble sleeping

## **Letrozole/Femara Protocol:**

- Call the office on Day 1 of your period. Book an appointment for day 10 of your cycle (unless a doctor or nurse has told you otherwise). Please specify to reception if your plan is to do an intercourse cycle or an IUI cycle. You will have a blood test and ultrasound when you arrive for your appointment. Ask the receptionist if a full bladder is required for you appointment.
- Start the Letrozole/Femara on day 3 of your period for 5 days as directed by your doctor. While it does not matter what time of day you take your medication please try to take it at the same time each day.
- After your day 10 appointment a medical team member will review your ultrasound with you and tell you what to do next depending on your results.
- As part of your treatment we may order a 'trigger shot' to make you ovulate.

## **IUI – Intrauterine Insemination Patient Information**

### **WHAT IS INTRAUTERINE INSEMINATION (IUI)?**

Sperm deposited in the vagina during intercourse actively swim through the mucus within the cervix, into the uterus and then up and along the fallopian tubes where the process of fertilization takes place. Intrauterine Insemination (IUI) involves washing dead and abnormal sperm out of a semen sample then concentrating the healthy-looking, moving sperm into a small volume of fluid (approximately 0.4 ml). This fluid is inserted directly into the uterine cavity using a fine plastic tube, which is passed through the cervix. Sperm are thus deposited higher than usual above the uterine cervix, bypassing one potential hurdle on their journey towards the fallopian tube.

### **INDICATIONS FOR IUI**

When the cause of infertility is unexplained, after gynecological surgery, or in cases of mild to moderate sperm abnormalities, IUI may be an appropriate treatment. Although there is little evidence to show that IUI is an effective treatment for male factor infertility, it is a treatment that couples and their physician may elect to try for a few cycles on the chance that it may be of some benefit, especially if the sperm abnormality is mild. IUI is sometimes combined with fertility medications. Your doctor will help you decide if this is necessary.

### **WHAT ARE THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH IUI?**

Passage of any instrument through the uterine cervix carries with it a potential for infection of the uterus and fallopian tubes. The methods used in preparing the sperm virtually eliminate the potential for transfer of bacteria from the sperm into the uterus and fallopian tubes. Please speak to the physician if you think you have any symptoms of infection during treatment. If you experience any complications after your procedure please contact our clinic and speak to one of our nurses. Please note that there is also a risk of cycle cancellation in certain cases.

### **ARE THERE ANY SIDE-EFFECTS?**

Occasional cramping and spotting can occur following an insemination. These problems are not dangerous and do not reduce the chance of pregnancy following treatment. You may take Tylenol (regular or extra strength) for cramping.

### **WHEN WILL MY IUI BE?**

In order to time when to have your insemination, we require that you participate in ovulation monitoring using ovulation prediction kits (OPKs) when instructed to do so as well as attend cycle monitoring at the clinic. OPKs can be purchased at drug stores or online. Please follow the instruction on the package. If your OPK is positive, call the clinic to book your IUI for the following day. Cycle monitoring involves having vaginal ultrasounds and/or blood test monitoring as per nurse and/or physician instructions. The date of your first visit for cycle monitoring will be determined by your doctor or nurse. At your cycle monitoring visit, the nurse will give you a treatment plan with further

instructions. We may recommend a medication called Ovidrel that will cause you to release your egg in a timely manner. This medication is stocked in our clinic pharmacy for your convenience. If we use this medication, your IUI will be on the day after your injection of this medication.

### **THE DAY OF IUI:**

**IUI procedures are spaced out to limit the number of patients at the clinic at one time. You will be assigned a time to arrive to the clinic.**

On the day of your insemination we need a semen sample dropped off at the Gamete Biology Lab as specified by the clinic at the time of booking. It is ideal to have the sample at the clinic within 30min of production but no later than 1 hr. The sample is to be kept at body temperature in transport (tuck it under your arm). If your commute is more than 1hr we recommend that the sample is produced at the clinic in our private collection rooms. The sample is collected by masturbation into a sterile container provided by the clinic. If you are bringing the sample to the clinic for your partner, you must bring his health card with you.

When you arrive for the procedure, please check in with reception, show your health card, and settle your account. We will bring you into an exam room when the physician is ready for you.

### **WHO WILL DO MY IUI?**

Our IUI program is only one of the many fertility services offered by the clinic. Your IUI will be performed by a physician who is a senior resident in gynecology from McMaster University, or by one of the ONE Fertility staff physicians. Please note, on the day of your insemination, your own physician may not be the doctor on-call. If you are unsuccessful after three treatment cycles, you should contact our clinic for further direction.

### **WHAT ELSE IS REQUIRED?**

1. Consents for IUI must be signed.
2. Infectious disease screening that is done at an outside lab must be done within a year of treatment for the person having the IUI as well as their partner when applicable.

\*Please note that your treatment can be delayed if the above is not done.

### **WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED?**

Please refer to your financial agreement for the costs involved or contact our clinic.

**NOTES:**

**You might be prescribed progesterone suppositories if you used injections during your stimulation. The suppositories, when required, start approximately two days after the IUI.**

It is important that we know the outcome of your cycle.

PLEASE HAVE A PREGNANCY TEST DONE 2 WEEKS AFTER YOUR INSEMINATION, EVEN IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE HAVING YOUR PERIOD. IT IS NOT UNUSUAL TO BLEED IN THE EARLY STAGES OF PREGNANCY.

WE WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS.

*One Fertility Team*