



Drugs during the IVF process

To induce egg production and ovulation:

These drugs fall into two categories

1. Drugs that **increase your own natural FSH** (ovulation hormone) to create only one or two eggs per month.

The two most common drugs are **Clomid (Clomifene citrate) and Tamoxifen**. The major side effect of this treatment is the risk of multiple pregnancy.

Approximately 8% of pregnancies conceived on clomifene citrate will be twin pregnancies and 1% will be triplets, or more. As a result of this, clomifene citrate should ideally only be used in circumstances where ovarian ultrasound monitoring is available.

2. Drugs that **give you additional FSH** in an attempt to get you to 'superovulate' i.e. produce many eggs for an IVF process.

Common drugs used for this purpose are: **Puregon, Gonal F, and Menopur**. The only real difference in these drug is the source of the FSH hormone. With Puregon and Gonal F the hormone is obtained by genetic engineering, where the other drugs get the FSH hormone from the urine of menopausal women. These drugs are all self administered by subcutaneous injection.

Drugs that prevent you from releasing eggs prematurely

These are used during the IVF procedure to prevent your eggs being released before they are ready to be taken out of your ovaries.

These drugs, called GnRH agonists or antagonists, 'block' your own naturally occurring hormone which would release the eggs in response to your rising hormone level during the IVF procedure. The most commonly used ones are: **Synarel (nasal spray or injection), Buserelin (injection) and Cetrotide (injection)**.

Drugs used to support the endometrium (lining of your womb) to encourage implantation of an embryo

As a result of the GnRH agonist drug that you are taking your own body's production of the hormone progesterone will be decreased. To compensate for this you will need to take additional progesterone from the time that your eggs are removed. This hormone commonly comes as a pessary and is called **Cyclogest**.