

## Possible Side Effects of Drugs

- Nausea, vomiting, constipation, diarrhea, dehydration
- Enlarged ovaries and/or thyroid
- Muscle and joint problems
- Feelings of anxiety, depression and irritability
- Headaches, blurred vision, blackouts, memory difficulties
- Sleepiness or fatigue
- Breast tenderness, hot flashes
- Vaginal dryness, burning on urination
- Hair loss
- Weight gain, swelling, belly pain
- Anemia, high blood pressure, blood clots, intestinal bleeding, ulcers
- Fluid in abdomen and lungs
- Shock (rapid drop in blood pressure)
- Allergic reaction (rash, hives, difficulty breathing)

**CAUTION:** Every woman who takes follicle stimulating hormones has a risk of developing **Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome (OHSS)**. Pregnancy increases the likelihood and severity of OHSS. Risk may be less for egg donors.

With OHSS, ovary sacs fill up with fluid and form cysts that can rupture. Sometimes, fluid leaks into the lungs and abdomen; 1-2% of women are hospitalized to remove fluid. Some require surgery to remove ovaries. Rare, but serious, risks include blood clots that can lead to a stroke, kidney damage and possibly death.

If you experience nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fever or chills, abdominal pain or swelling with weight gain, decreased amount of urine or decreased need to urinate, dark urine, shortness of breath or trouble breathing, CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY.

## Alternatives

- Adoption
- Egg retrieval from another woman who agrees to donate egg(s) to you

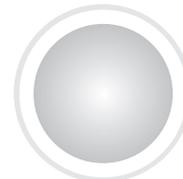
### Alternative Types of Egg Retrieval

- Egg retrieval with no stimulating drugs, a lower dose, or different drugs
- Single egg retrieval during your normal ovulation cycle

Egg retrieval and associated drugs may involve currently unknown risks to you, the embryo created with your eggs, or the fetus.

At this time, there is no proof that use of these drugs increases the risk of ovarian cancer. More study is needed.

**Ask your doctor** about new studies on the effectiveness and safety of procedures, devices and drugs described in this pamphlet.



# EGG

# RETRIEVAL

MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

April, 2006

*Massachusetts law requires that your doctor give you this pamphlet. (M.G.L. c.111L s.4)*

## The Egg Retrieval Procedure

Egg retrieval is an operation. It is usually done in a doctor's office or outpatient clinic.

A fine, hollow needle connected to a suction device is passed through the wall of the vagina or abdomen into an ovary. The needle is used to suction out fluid from each egg sac called a follicle. Sometimes, no egg is obtained. Other times as many as 10 or more eggs are obtained from several follicles.

Most often, the needle is guided by a vaginal ultrasound probe. The probe sends sound waves through the body to produce a picture of the sac and the fluid on a screen.

In rare cases, laparoscopy, a minimally invasive operation, is needed. Your doctor will make a small cut below the belly button to insert a long, thin, lighted telescope-like instrument (called a laparoscope) into your abdomen to look at the pelvic organs inside your body. One or two small cuts may be made to insert other instruments.

Before the procedure, a doctor may give you a shot or an intravenous medicine to prevent pain or put you to sleep, and give you antibiotics to reduce the risk of infection.



## Possible Health Impacts of the Egg Retrieval Procedure

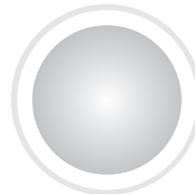
- Temporary enlargement of your ovaries lasting several days or weeks
- Bloating and vaginal discomfort
- Bleeding from the ovary and vaginal spotting for a few days is normal. (Severe bleeding and need for transfusion is rare.)
- Cramping is normal.
- Back and leg pain
- Pelvic infection, bladder infection
- Injury to other organs, such as bowels, bladder or a blood vessel (Less than one patient in a 1,000 requires major surgery to repair damage.)

Rare complications are the following:

- Loss of sensation, loss of limb function, paralysis, brain damage
- These and other problems could require hospitalization and surgery, such as removal of fallopian tubes, ovary(ies), or uterus that could lessen your chances or prevent you from getting pregnant and giving birth in the future.
- Death

### Repeated Procedures

It is not known if repeating egg retrieval procedures multiple times will affect your ability to have a child.



## Drugs

Drugs used to control your cycle and to induce the development of multiple eggs may include:

### 1. Ovulation Suppression

- GnRH Antagonist (including Antagon and Cetrotide)
- GnRH Agonist (including Lupron)

### 2. Gonadotropins

- Follicle Stimulation Hormones (FSH) (including Bravelle, Follistim, Gonal-F)
- Human Menopausal Gonadotropins (including Menopur and Repronex)
- Lutenizing Hormone (LH) (Luveris)

### 3. Ovulation Stimulation

- Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (including Pregnyl, Novarel and Ovidrel)

All of these drugs have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Lupron and other gonadotropins are not specifically approved for egg retrieval, but many doctors use them for this purpose.

Drug type and dosage vary depending on the doctor or patient. You may need to give yourself daily shots for about 14 days. Ask your doctors about your choices and alternatives to drugs.

