

# Fertility Injections

Medication Information Leaflet

## What is this medication for?

Fertility drugs remain the primary treatment for women to enhance reproductive fertility. There are oral and injectable fertility drugs. This leaflet will only cover specific fertility injections. You will need to take fertility drugs or hormone injections to stimulate your ovaries to develop and release mature eggs ready for fertilization. These will help increase your chances of getting pregnant.

### **GONAL-F®**, **PUREGON®**, **MENOPUR®**, **PERGOVERIS™**, **ELONVA®**, **REKOVELLE®**

- This injection works in the development and maturation of the follicles (which contain eggs)

### **ORGALUTRAN®**, **CETROTIDE®**

- This injection works by preventing early release of the egg

### **OVIDREL®**, **PREGNYL®**

- This injection works by stimulating the release of mature eggs.

## How should I take/use this medication?

You are advised to follow the schedule according to your doctor's instructions. The injections are usually given just under the skin (subcutaneously) and you will be taught how to inject by your doctor or nurse. It is advisable to rotate the site of injections to reduce skin irritation.

- Do not stop using your injections without checking with your healthcare professional.
- Do not change the doses of your injections without checking with your doctor or nurse.
- Do not inject into any areas in which you feel lumps, firm knots, depressions (where a portion of the skin seems to sink in) , pain, or see any discolourations.

## What should I do if I forget to take/use this medication?

If you forget to inject a dose, contact your nurse or doctor immediately for advice. Do not inject two doses to make up for the missed dose.

## What precautions should I take?

Inform your healthcare professional if:

- You are allergic to this medication or any of the other ingredients of this medication
- You are pregnant or breastfeeding
- You have a known or suspected cancer or tumour of the ovary, breast, uterus
- You have ever had twisting of an ovary (ovarian torsion)

## What are some common side-effects of this medication?

- Nausea, vomiting
- Stomach pain or swelling
- Bloating
- Pelvic pain and discomfort
- Breast tenderness
- Headache
  - You may take Paracetamol to manage headaches.
- Injection site reactions (such as bruising, pain, redness, swelling and itching)
  - You should change injection sites daily to reduce possible injection site reaction

## What are some rare but serious side-effects that I need to seek medical advice immediately?

The symptoms of a drug allergy include one or more of the following:

- Swollen face/eyes/lips/tongue
- Difficulty in breathing
- Itchy skin rashes over your whole body

If you experience any of these symptoms, you should stop your medication and see your healthcare professional immediately.

Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome (OHSS) happens when too many ovarian follicles have developed in response to the usual dosage of medication. It is a result of the hormones produced by the ovaries in response to the usual dosage of medication. OHSS is usually mild and only causes a slight lower abdominal discomfort in most cases. Although it is not common, it may still need medical attention as it can be potentially life threatening, if left untreated in severe cases. If any of the symptoms below worsen or do not go away, you should see your healthcare professional immediately.

You may be developing OHSS if you experience some or all of the following symptoms:

- Pain and lower abdominal discomfort that do not go away

- Feeling sick and vomiting
- Bloating and pain in the stomach area
- Shortness of breath
- Dehydration
- Reduction of urine volume
- Abdominal pain

## **How should I store this medication?**

Keep this medication away from children.

Refer to the individual package inserts or medication labels for the storage conditions.

## **How should I throw away this medication safely?**

If used at home, you may throw this injection away along with the used needles, into a metal tin, or glass jar or thick plastic container (e.g. detergent bottles) to prevent any needle stick injury.

### **Disclaimers**

If you take more than the recommended dose, please seek medical advice immediately. The information provided on this page does not replace information from your healthcare professional. Please consult your healthcare professional for more information.

*This article is jointly developed by members of the National Medication Information workgroup. The workgroup consists of cluster partners (National Healthcare Group, National University Health System and SingHealth), community pharmacies (Guardian, Unity and Watsons) and Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore. The content does not reflect drug availability and supply information in pharmacies and healthcare institutions. You are advised to check with the respective institutions for such information.*

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