

SC menotropins a well tolerated option in IVF

Although the incidence of some local adverse effects was higher with SC compared with IM administration of menotropins, these local effects were generally mild and well tolerated in a UK study. Thus, the study authors say that the SC route of menotropin administration should be offered as an option to patients undergoing *in vitro* fertilisation (IVF) therapy. They add that SC injections can be self-administered at home, reducing indirect treatment costs and patient stress.

The investigators studied the incidence and severity of local adverse effects in 71 women who received menotropins* by the SC (41 women) or IM (30) route. The most common local adverse effect was pain, occurring with 55.3% of IM injections and 70.1% of SC injections. The incidence of redness and swelling were higher in the SC, compared with the IM group (75.6 and 57.5% in the SC group vs 20.1 and 6.6% in the IM group, respectively), however, most cases were classified as mild. There were no significant between-group differences in the incidences of pruritus or bruising.

* The menotropin used was 'Normegon' containing follicle stimulating hormone 75IU and luteinising hormone 25IU.

Engmann L, et al. Local side effects of subcutaneous and intramuscular urinary gonadotropins for ovarian stimulation in *in vitro* fertilization: a prospective, randomized study. *Fertility and Sterility* 69: 836-840, May 1998 800672798