

Clomifene/menotropins/gonadorelin

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Ovarian germ-cell tumour: case report

A malignant ovarian germ-cell tumour occurred in a 37-year-old pregnant woman who had received treatment for ovulation induction with clomifene, menotropins [follicle stimulating hormone] and gonadorelin [gonadotropin releasing hormone].

The woman received treatment with the fertility drugs during a 4-month period. Ovulation induction was then stopped when an ultrasound showed a right ovarian mass, which was attributed to ovarian hyperstimulation. The next month, the woman conceived. At 21 weeks' gestation, an ultrasound showed a complex adnexal mass, 30cm in diameter.

At 22 weeks' gestation, it was noted that the mass was increasing in size and the woman experienced abdominal pain and dyspnoea. She underwent right salpingoophorectomy and histological tests revealed a grade 2 immature teratoma.

Author comment: *'Our patient's normal antecedent pelvic ultrasound exam, the close temporal relation (2 months) between fertility drug administration and the development of an ovarian malignancy, and the diagnosis of a malignant ovarian germ-cell tumour at the relatively late age of 37 years (perhaps suggesting an exogenous influence), all make a causal link between fertility-drug therapy and the development of a germ cell tumour in our patient plausible.'*

Tewari K, et al. Fertility drugs and malignant germ-cell tumour of ovary in pregnancy. *Lancet* 351: 957, 28 Mar 1998 - USA

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