

Recent study suggests that going directly to IVF was more cost beneficial than intervening cycles of super ovulation and insemination

Washington DC. Dr Richard Reindollar, chairman of the Dartmouth's OB GYN department presented a study at the annual meeting of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine. It stated that an infertility protocol that goes directly from clomid and insemination (IUI) to in vitro fertilization achieve as many pregnancies as a protocol that includes follicle stimulating hormone and IUI as the step in between. The study randomized 503 couples seeking treatment for unexplained infertility to either standard or an accelerated protocol. Couples were young, had normal ovarian reserve testing, normal semen analysis and no pelvic abnormalities. The study demonstrated that the traditional method of including FSH/IUI in treatment for couples with unexplained infertility does not appear to provide a benefit over moving from clomid/ IUI directly to in vitro fertilization.

Carolina Conceptions comment from Drs. Meyer and Couchman: Dr Reindollar's study was performed at Boston IVF and presented October 16th 2007. Of interest was the fact that 52 pregnancies occurred during a non treatment cycle. The average charge per delivery for a child born in the accelerated treatment arm was 61,500 dollars and in the protocol with intervening superovulation and IUI the cost was 71, 400 dollars. This supports the value of consideration of circumventing superovulation and IUI and going to IVF after failing clomid (Carolina Conceptions uses Letrozole/Femara in many of their cycles). OB GYN NEWS November 1, 2007