Leuprolide Acetate (Lupron)

Leuprolide acetate (*Lupron* is a "GnRh agonist; it stops the hypothalamus from secreting the hormones FSH and LH. This causes the ovaries to enter a state of rest, putting the woman in a temporary "menopausal state". *Lupron,* is used for hormonal manipulation in ART (IVF, GIFT and ZIFT) patients. It can also improve the stimulation response in anovulatory women or in those who are poor responders to drug stimulation. *Lupron* is also commonly used in the treatment of endometriosis and uterine fibroids. When ordered daily, the medication is administered by subcutaneous injection. It is given in the layer of fat just underneath the skin in the arm, leg or stomach.

Side Effects & Risks

Lupron can cause menopause-like symptoms such as hot flashes, irritability, depression and vaginal dryness. Other side effects may include headaches, sleep disturbances, vomiting and temporary urinary impairment. Some women develop a raised, itching area at the injection site. This is <u>not</u> an allergic reaction. Do not rub or scratch. The sensation usually stops in 10-20 minutes; notify your office if it does not.

Lupron should not be taken by pregnant women. Testing in animals has produced a dose-related increase in fetal abnormalities and decrease in fetal birth weights. Because of the alternations in hormone levels caused by *Lupron* the possibility of spontaneous abortion also exists though recent studies suggest no such risk.

<u>Patient Instructions</u>:

1. Schedule an appointment with a member of the staff <u>before you begin your treatment cycle</u> to learn how to administer the *Lupron*. Do not start *Lupron* unless you have been using some type of barrier contraception. If there is any chance you might be pregnant, notify a member of the clinical staff or your physician before taking the medication.

2. Always wash your hands before preparing the medication. Hand washing is the single most important factor in the prevention of infection.

3. The *Lupron* is pre-mixed and is in a multi-dose vial. Remove the cap from the vial and wipe the top with an alcohol pad every day, just before you use it.

4. Remove the outer wrapping from the syringe. Draw air up into the syringe in an amount equal to the Lupron dose prescribed by your physician. Uncap the needle.

5. Invert the vial. Insert the needle through the top of the vial and inject the air. Do not remove the needle from the vial.

6. With the vial still inverted, see that the needle tip is in the liquid. Draw the *Lupron* into the syringe in the amount prescribed.

7. Withdraw the needle and pull the plunger back slightly.

8. Point the needle up. Gently flick on the syringe to force any air bubbles to the top. Push the plunger up until no air remains in the syringe.

9. Lay the syringe on a clean flat surface.

10. Refer to **Subcutaneous Injections**

11. Keep the *Lupron* in the refrigerator if the temperature in your home fluctuates greatly. See package insert for additional information regarding storage of the medication.

F.Y.I. ***Lupron*** **Dose Equivalents:**

0.25 mg = 5 units (Ta) = .05cc

0.5 mg – 10 units (IU) = .1cc

1.0 mg = 20 units (IU) = .2cc

12. If you are on a "micro-dose" Lupron, stimulation, most likely it will come pre-mixed, if not we will dilute the Lupron for you. Instructions for this stimulation protocol will be given to you.