

Specialists In Reproductive Medicine & Surgery, P.A.

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Antibiotic Therapy During ART General Information

Indications:

Couples who undergo Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) procedures will be requested to take oral antibiotics. Usually, Doxycycline (a Tetracycline) is prescribed prior to the egg retrieval. At times, those undergoing embryo transfer procedures (i.e., frozen embryo transfers & egg recipients) will also be asked to take oral antibiotics. These antibiotics are given to minimize the effects of a subclinical infection that could compromise fertilization and implantation. Intravenous antibiotics, usually Cefazolin (Ancef, a Cephalosporin), will also be administered to the female partner just prior to the egg retrieval. The combination of extended oral antibiotics and preoperative IV antibiotics in the woman reduces the rare (approximately 1:100 cases) incidence of a pelvic infection following egg retrieval.

Contraindications:

Patients who have had a previous adverse reaction to any Tetracycline and/or Cephalosporin will be given different antibiotics.

Administration:

Both you, and potentially, your partner will be specifically instructed when to start the oral Doxycycline.

Complications:

Tetracycline has occasionally been associated with sensitivity to sunlight, especially in fair-skinned individuals. Any patient may have nausea and vomiting with any oral medication, so you will be encouraged to take the antibiotic with food. Rare problems such as liver damage have been reported with Tetracycline.

An allergic reaction to the IV Cephalosporin is actually quite rare. Even patients who are truly allergic to penicillin rarely react adversely to a Cephalosporin.

Any medication can result in a life-threatening adverse drug reaction; however, the chances of this happening are remote. Other side effects are possible but rarely result in any significant adverse effect. A detailed list of the reported possible side effects for these medications is available should you wish to review it. Please discuss any concerns you have about the medications with the ART team. It has essentially become “standard-of-care” to give these antibiotics to all ART patients. Please remember that your physician, along with numerous other physicians, feels the benefits far outweigh the infrequent adverse effects of these medications.

Once again, please be sure to discuss any concerns or questions you may have regarding the use of these medications with the ART team.

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