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**The Women's Group
of Northwestern**
OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY
www.womenobgyn.net

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Basic Infertility Work-Up

Progesterone Levels

- Blood test done to detect whether a woman has ovulated
- Must be done prior to initial prescription of Clomid and with each Clomid cycle to assess proper dosing
- Performed 7 days after LH surge on an ovulation predictor kit (OPK) or on cycle day 21 if no surge seen. An LH surge means that you will probably ovulate within the next 24-36 hours. OPKs can be purchased at most pharmacies. There are many different brands, OvuQuick and Clear Plan Easy are easier to use. Your doctor will instruct you on when to start using the kit. Stop using the kit when you see a surge (a change of color on the kit).
- If your surge falls on a weekend, call the office that following Monday and we will help you decide when and where to have your progesterone levels drawn. We often have office hours on Saturdays or will likely have you come in the following Monday. It is better to have drawn a day or 2 late than even 1 day early.
- Call in advance to set up your blood test appointment
- Progesterone levels will be used to evaluate future needs for Clomid or the need to increase the current dosage of Clomid
- We want to see the level in the teens. If you have taken Clomid and a level comes back greater than 20 and a pregnancy is not achieved, an ultrasound may be necessary on day 3 of your next cycle to evaluate for ovarian hyperstimulation.

Hysterosalpingogram – HSG

- A hysterosalpingogram is an X-ray done to detect scar tissue, polyps, fibroids, and other growths that may be blocking your fallopian tubes or preventing a fertilized egg from implanting properly in your uterus.
- Must be completed prior to or during the first cycle of Clomid
- Performed at Northwestern Memorial Hospital by one of our providers along with a hospital radiologist. Galter Pavillion, 251 E. Huron, 4th floor. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your appointment and check in with the receptionist.
- Must be done between cycle days 6 to 11 (*after* menses and *before* ovulation).
- Call the office on the first day of your menses to set up a time for your procedure.
- You must not be actively bleeding in order for the procedure to be done.

- The procedure takes approximately 15 minutes and is typically done around lunch time or in the afternoon depending on the radiologist's availability at the hospital.

Basic Infertility Work-Up (continued)

- The procedure will cause discomfort, similar to intense menstrual cramps, so be sure to eat lunch and take some Aleve or ibuprofen 30 minutes prior to the procedure.
- During the procedure the doctor will insert a speculum into your vagina (like when you have a Pap smear done), and then place a thin plastic tube inside your cervix that will lead to your uterus and fallopian tubes. A special dye will be injected through the plastic tube. The dye should fill your uterus and fallopian tubes and spill out of each fallopian tube. As this is happening, the radiologist will be taking X-rays.
- Preliminary results will be given immediately following the procedure with the final results being available in 7-10 days.
- After the procedure you may have some cramping and drainage of dye for 24 hours.
- No sexual intercourse or use of tampons for 2 days after the procedure.
- If you have a personal history of pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy or Chlamydia, check with your doctor at least 4 days prior to the procedure to discuss the possible need for antibiotics.
- Please notify your doctor if you have a known allergy to dye or shellfish at least 4 days prior to the procedure to discuss the possible need for premedication.

Semen Analysis

- Semen analysis results will not only look at the number of sperm in the semen (sperm count) but also see whether the sperm are formed normal (morphology) and how well the sperm can swim (motility).
- Must be performed prior to or during the first cycle of Clomid.
- Many men will schedule this appointment at the same time as the HSG.
- Refrain from intercourse and masturbation for 2-3 days before your appointment. Check with the lab for specific instructions.
- Final reports will usually be sent to our office 7-10 days after appointment.
- If you need an order sent, call the office and include the wife's name and date of birth (our patient), husband/partner's name and date of birth and what office the order needs to be sent to.
- Fertility Centers of Illinois (312)222-8230
www.fcionline.com, multiple locations in Chicago and suburbs
- Northwestern Memorial Faculty Foundation (312)695-7269
675 N. St. Clair, Suite 14-200
- Andrology Laboratory Services (312)908-7151
680 N. Lake Shore Drive, Suite 807