



Institut Biochimique SA



Laboratoires
GENEVRIER



Performance of commercially available HP-FSH: a meta-analysis

Hesham Al-Inany, M.D, PhD

Gonadotrophin-driven multifollicular development is still an integral component of ovarian stimulation in IVF/ICSI cycles (Keck et al, 2005). Two of the most commonly used classes of drugs are the highly purified follicle stimulating hormone (HP-FSH) and the recombinant follicle stimulating hormone (recFSH). Several randomized controlled trials that have been performed aiming to compare the two classes of products did not reach conclusive results. In these cases, meta-analyses rank at top of the evidence pyramid, at least when the RCTs that are pooled together share similar methodologies.

A previous meta-analysis (Daya & Gunbay, 1999) compared recFSH to Metrodin HP. However, Metrodin-HP has been documented to contain FSH isoforms of lower acidity (Andersen et al., 2004), which might turn in a lower activity. Moreover, it has been withdrawn from the market. Thus, the evidence should be revaluated in view of currently available HP-FSH products that are not only of high purity but also contain a more extensively glycosylated FSH.

Accordingly, we decided to conduct a meta-analysis comparing currently available HP-FSH to recFSH in women undergoing IVF/ICSI cycles. The results of the meta-analysis will be presented.