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Effectiveness and tolerability of hFSH compared to rFSH in ICSI: the European study

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The purpose of the study was the comparative evaluation of the clinical efficacy and the general tolerability of two different subcutaneous FSH preparations (hFSH vs rFSH) when administered to women undergoing ICSI.

Design: Multicenter, investigator blind, prospective, randomised, controlled clinical trial. Two parallel groups.

Materials and Methods: One-hundred and fifty were selected for the study. The primary end-point was the total number of oocytes retrieved. The secondary end-points included the total dose of FSH (IU); the number of days of FSH stimulation and the duration of stimulation; the cancellation rate; the serum estradiol concentration on the day of hCG injection; the number of follicles >14 mm on the day of hCG trigger injection.

Results: The total number of oocytes retrieved, the total dose of FSH, the number of embryos transferred and frozen embryos derived, the implantation rate and the clinical pregnancy rate per initiated cycle, as well as all the other secondary parameters analysed were equivalent. There were no differences seen in relation to clinical safety.

Conclusion: We have shown that there are no apparent differences seen between women who received hFSH in comparison to rFSH whilst undergoing ICSI. We conclude that other considerations, in particular cost, should be made when choosing between the two FSH preparations.