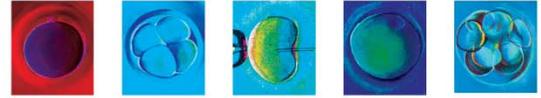


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FERTILITY FACT SHEET

San Ramon / Orinda / San Jose

LOVENOX

Lovenox is a form of Heparin, a medication commonly known as a “Blood Thinner.” Lovenox is used to help prevent blood clots from forming. Some women may have a medical condition that predisposes them to forming blood clots which can put them at increased risk of miscarriage and/or pregnancy complications due to blood clot formation in the blood vessels that support the placenta and pregnancy. Women who have had repeated miscarriages are often tested for a number of clotting disorders including anti-cardiolipin antibodies, lupus anticoagulant antibodies, anti beta-2 glycoprotein antibodies, factor V Leiden gene mutations, MTHFR mutations, and elevated homocysteine levels. One of the possible treatments used to help prevent miscarriages and reduce pregnancy-related complications in patients with clotting disorders is the use of Heparin or Lovenox. Lovenox has also been used in patients with repeated IVF failures in the hope of improving implantation.

Lovenox is given as a once a day subcutaneous injection in the lower abdomen using a very small needle for most of the pregnancy. Lovenox comes in a prefilled syringe for easy usage. Heparin needs to be given as a twice a day injection but is less expensive than Lovenox. Lovenox or Heparin is typically started at the time of an Embryo Transfer or once a positive pregnancy test is confirmed. Calcium supplementation is recommended while a patient is taking Lovenox.

Common side-effects may include mild local reactions or irritation at the site of injection including pain, bruising or redness of the skin. Other less common side effects may include mild anemia, reduced platelet count, diarrhea, nausea, bleeding (very rare with the dose of Lovenox used), and osteoporosis (increased chance for bone fractures) if Heparin or Lovenox are used for a prolonged period of time. Lovenox does not cross placenta so there is no known effects on the baby.