

Medication guide

Step-by-step instructions on how to take specific fertility medications

[Click to continue](#)

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Medication guide

This section provides step-by-step instructions on how to take specific fertility medications. Select any of the topics for more information.

› Cetrotide

› Follistim AQ

› Ganirelix acetate injection

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› Gonal-f RFF 75

› Gonal-f RFF redi-ject

› HCG/Novarel/Pregnyl

› Leuprolide acetate

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Cetrotide (Cetrorelix acetate for injection)

FOR SUBCUTANEOUS USE ONLY



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ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY YOUR PHYSICIAN

Supplies needed



You will need the following supplies in preparation for the administration of Cetrotide:

- Cetrotide 0.25 mg medication vial
- Prefilled syringe of sterile water for injection
- 27G injection needle (grey mark)
- 20G mixing needle (yellow mark)
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gauze pads (optional)
- Sharps container

→ [Preparing the medication](#)

Preparing the medication



Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Select a location for your supplies with a surface that is clean and dry such as a bathroom or kitchen counter or table. Wipe the area with antibacterial cloth or put a clean paper towel down for the supplies to rest on.

Preparing the medication



Check to be sure that you have the correct medication. Inspect your medications. Contact your doctor or pharmacy if:

- your medication has expired.
- the medication is cloudy or discolored (usually yellow).
- particles are floating in the medication vial.

Before giving your Cetrotide injection, allow the medication to reach room temperature. Injecting cold medication may cause discomfort at the injection site.



Preparing the medication

Flip off the plastic cap from the vial of Cetrotide.

Wipe rubber stopper with an alcohol wipe and let dry.



Preparing the medication



Remove the protective cap from the syringe, being careful not to touch the syringe tip.

Preparing the medication

Peel back the paper cover from the 20 gauge mixing needle (yellow mark).



Preparing the medication

Attach the 20 gauge mixing needle (yellow mark) to the prefilled syringe by twisting it to the right, or clockwise until it is firmly attached onto the top of the syringe.



Preparing the medication



Remove the protective cap from the syringe, being careful not to touch the needle tip. Place the needle cap sideways on a clean dry flat surface. Puncture the needle through the center of the rubber stopper with the needle.

Preparing the medication



Slowly push the plunger to gently force the diluent into the vial of Cetrotide. Without removing the needle, gently rotate the vial until you see the solution is clear.

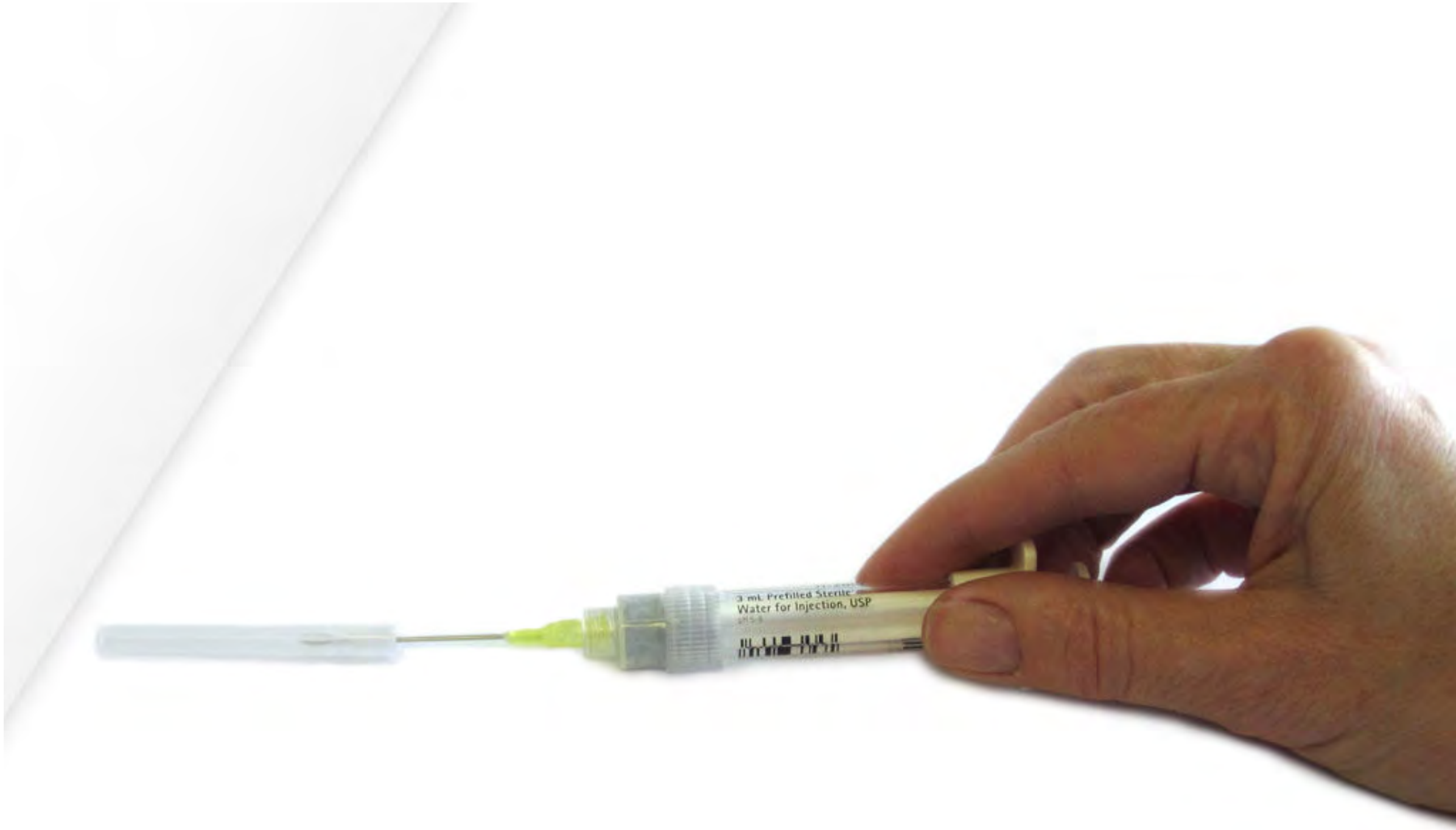
DO NOT SHAKE VIAL.

Preparing the medication



Invert the vial and syringe as one unit, assure that the tip of the needle is below the level of liquid and slowly pull back on the plunger to remove all of the medication from the vial into the syringe.

Preparing the medication



Carefully recap the 20 gauge mixing needle (yellow mark) by scooping up the cap from a flat surface.

Preparing the medication



Detach the 20 gauge mixing needle (yellow mark) from the syringe and discard in a sharps container. Be careful not to contaminate the exposed end of the syringe.

Preparing the medication

Remove the 27 gauge injection needle (grey mark) from its sterile packaging and attach it to the syringe by twisting to the right, or clockwise. Make sure needle is securely attached.



Preparing the medication



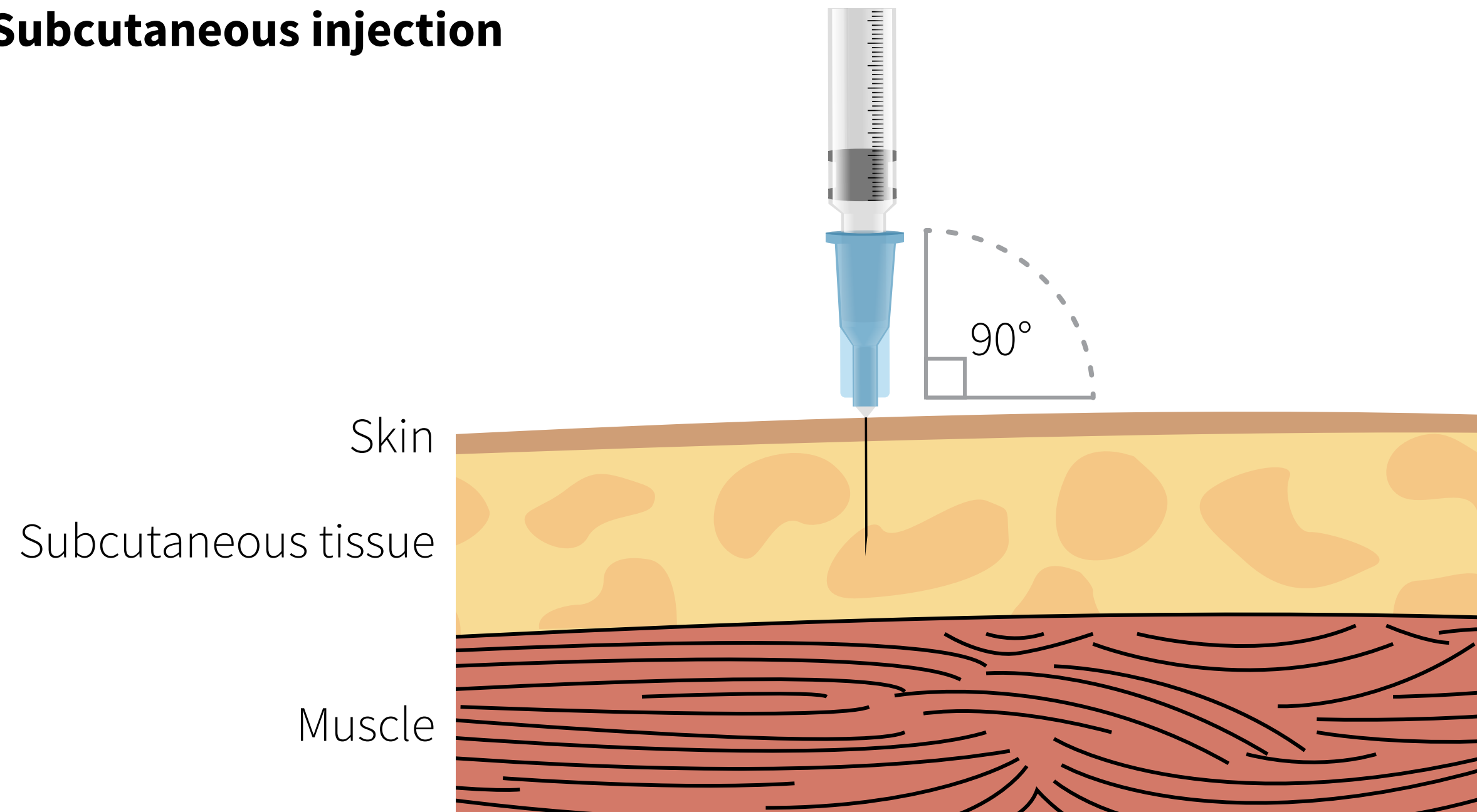
Remove the cap from the 27 gauge injection needle and place the cap sideways on a clean dry surface. Remove bubbles of air from the syringe by holding it with the needle facing upward and tapping on the syringe so that the air moves to the top of the syringe. Gently push the plunger until the fluid level has reached the top of the syringe. A small bubble of air in the syringe will not harm you. Carefully recap the needle by scooping up the 27 gauge cap. Be very sure to not contaminate the needle. Do not touch the needle or allow it to touch any surface.

The prescribed dose of Cetrotide is ready for administration.

→ **Subcutaneous injection**

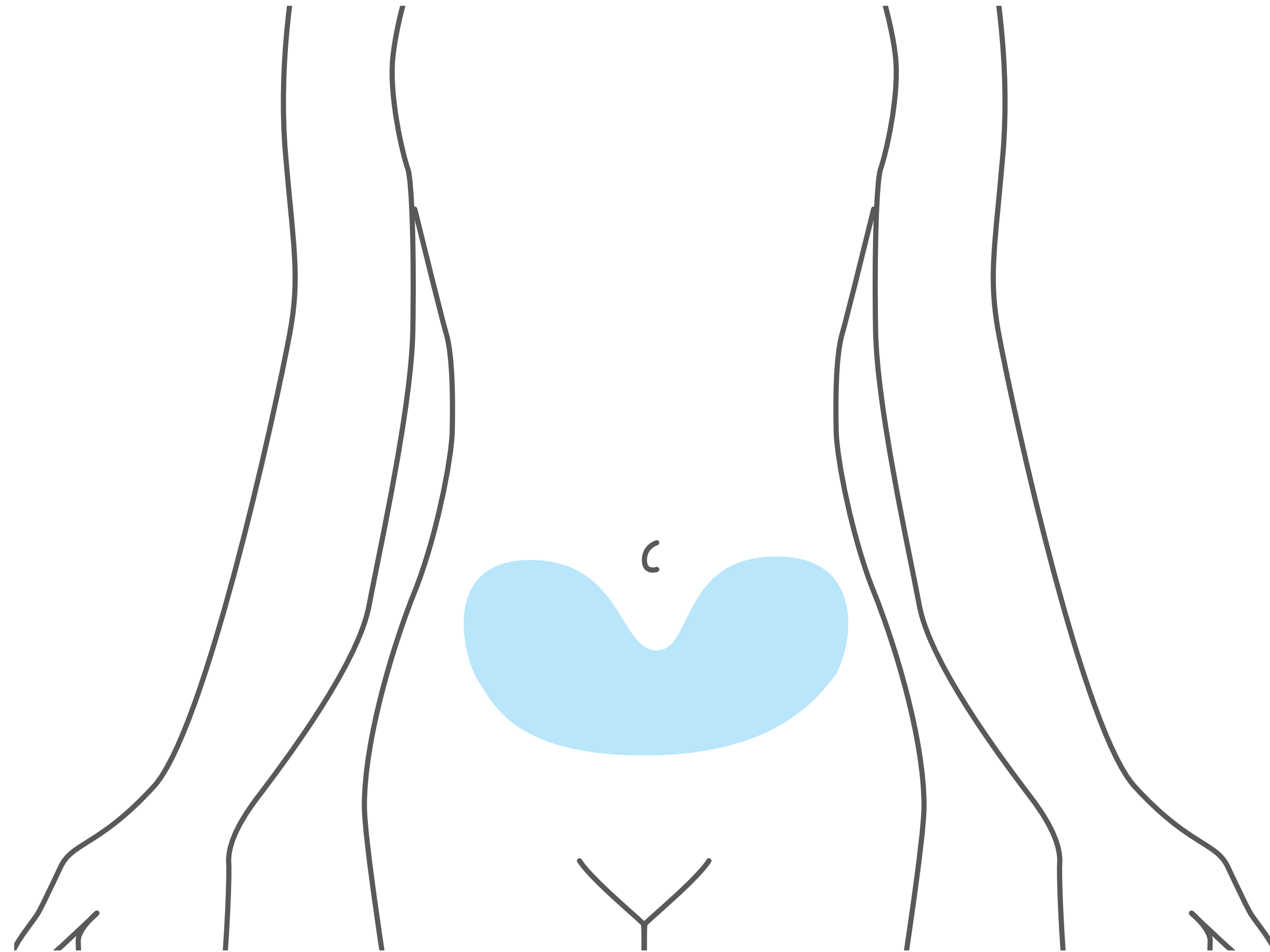
Subcutaneous injection

Subcutaneous injection



A subcutaneous injection involves depositing medication into the fatty tissue directly beneath the skin using a short injection needle. The needle is inserted at a 90 degree angle to the skin unless you were instructed otherwise.

Subcutaneous injection



Choose an injection site in the lower abdomen preferably around, but staying at least one inch away, from the navel. Choose a different injection site each day to minimize local irritation. Always check with your physician or nurse for their injection site protocol. Avoid areas that are tender, hardened, swollen, scarred, itchy or burning.

Subcutaneous injection



Prior to giving the injection, clean the injection site with an alcohol wipe starting at the puncture site. Use firm pressure cleaning in a circular motion outward about 2 inches. Let the alcohol dry without fanning for a few seconds.

Subcutaneous injection



Hold syringe in your dominant hand between your thumb and finger as you would a pencil. With your free hand, gently pinch the skin at the injection site. You should be pinching one to two inches of skin.

Subcutaneous injection



Insert the needle into the pinched skin area at a 90 degree angle to the skin (using a quick dart like motion) to ensure that the medication is deposited into the fatty tissue unless you were instructed otherwise.

Subcutaneous injection



After the needle is completely inserted into the skin, release the skin that you are pinching. Depress the plunger at a slow, steady rate until all the medication has been injected. Wait for five seconds before pulling the needle out of the skin. Apply pressure with a sterile gauze pad if needed.

Subcutaneous injection



Once the medication has been administered, dispose of the needle and syringe in the sharps container as it should only be used once. Do not recap the needle.

Medication information

Cetrotide (Cetrorelix acetate for injection)

This drug stops an egg from being released too soon from the ovary during fertility treatment.

Common side effects

The most common side effects of this drug are ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome, nausea and headache. Reactions at the injection site are also common.

Serious side effects

Taking this drug during pregnancy could cause miscarriage. Those who are pregnant or think they might be pregnant should not take this drug. In rare cases, patients have had stillbirths.

This drug might cause severe allergic reactions for some patients. This drug might also affect results of laboratory blood tests. Those taking this drug might be at risk of having a baby with birth defects.

Speak with your doctor for information about the risks and benefits of available treatments.

Other information

Only doctors with experience treating infertility should prescribe this drug. Ask your doctor if this drug is right for you. Some patients should not take this drug.

Do not take this drug if you have any of the following conditions:

- allergy to cetrorelix acetate or any ingredients in Cetrotide or similar drugs
- allergy to mannitol
- allergy to gonadotropin-releasing hormone
- suspected or known pregnancy
- current breastfeeding
- severe kidney problems

Medication information

This drug is given after starting treatment with follicle-stimulating hormone. The typical dose of this drug is 0.25 mg. This is injected once a day. This dose is taken each day until the day of injection with human chorionic gonadotropin.

This drug is injected into the fatty tissue under the skin. Your doctor will teach you how to prepare and inject the drug.

Medication storage: Store medication per manufacturer instructions.

Always follow the instructions provided by your doctor.

<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=aca7768e-28a7-4027-b1d8-e66247665f79>
Accessed 01/06/22

Follistim AQ cartridge (Follitropin beta injection)

FOR SUBCUTANEOUS USE ONLY



- › Supplies needed
- › Preparing the medication
- › Subcutaneous injection
- › Medication information
- › Prescribing information

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY YOUR PHYSICIAN

Supplies needed



The Follistim AQ cartridge comes in premixed cartridges delivering different international units quantities intended for multiple doses. Supplies you will need to administer Follistim AQ cartridge include:

- Follistim pen for use only with Follistim AQ cartridge
- Follistim AQ cartridge (Delivering 300 international units, 600 international units or 900 international units)
- BD micro-rine pen needle (29G x 1/2inch)
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gauze pads (optional)
- Sharps container
- Follistim pen treatment diary (optional, if instructed by your clinic)

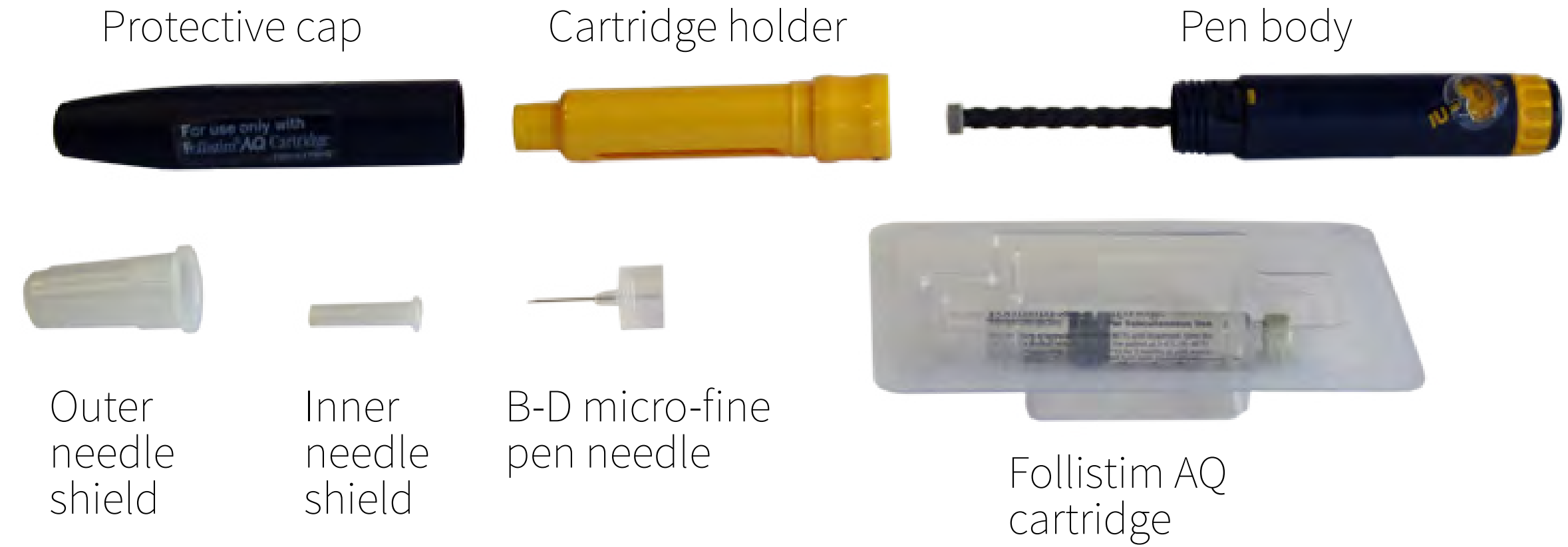
→ [Preparing the medication](#)

Preparing the medication



Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Select a location for your supplies with a surface that is clean and dry such as a bathroom or kitchen counter or table. Wipe the area with antibacterial cloth or put a clean paper towel down for the supplies to rest on.

Preparing the medication



Familiarize yourself with the parts of the Follistim pen and related supplies.

Preparing the medication



Your Follistim AQ cartridge will deliver 300 international units (Silver metal cap), 600 international units (Gold metal cap) or 900 international units (Blue metal cap). Remove the correct Follistim AQ cartridge from its package and check the expiration date. If expired, do not use medication and contact your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Preparing the medication



Check the liquid in the medication cartridge. Do not use if the liquid solution is cloudy or contains particles.

If medication has been refrigerated, it is recommended you allow the drug to reach room temperature before taking the injection. Injecting medication that is cold may cause discomfort at the injection site.

Preparing the medication

Pull off the protective cap from the Follistim pen and set aside on a clean, dry surface.



Preparing the medication



Twist off the entire pen body from the cartridge holder and set both aside on clean dry surface. Take the Follistim AQ cartridge and clean the rubber stopper with an alcohol wipe and let dry.



Preparing the medication

Place the cartridge in the cartridge holder with the metal rimmed cap/rubber stopper end first. The black rod must press against the rubber on the cartridge.



Preparing the medication



Screw the pen body fully onto the cartridge holder by twisting to the right or clockwise.

Preparing the medication



To assure it is properly and fully in place, the arrow on the cartridge holder should point to the middle of the yellow alignment marker on the blue pen body.

Preparing the medication

Clean the open end of the cartridge holder with an alcohol wipe and let dry.



Preparing the medication

Peel back the pink protective paper seal from a new BD micro-fine pen needle (do not touch the exposed inner needle). You must always use a new needle for each injection. Never reuse a needle.



Preparing the medication



Place the BD micro-fine pen needle unit on the cartridge holder and twist it to the right, or clockwise to tighten securely together.

Preparing the medication

The Follistim pen is now assembled and you are ready to check the flow of Follistim AQ through the needle.



Preparing the medication



Pull off the outer needle shield and set aside. Do not throw the outer needle shield away; you will use this to remove the needle.

Preparing the medication



Remove the inner needle shield and discard ensuring you do not touch the exposed needle tip.

Preparing the medication

Hold the pen with the exposed needle facing up (be sure not to contaminate the needle) and gently tap the cartridge holder to allow air bubbles to rise to the top of the needle.



Preparing the medication



With a loaded new, unused cartridge:

Dial the dosage knob until you hear one click. With the needle pointing upwards, push in the injection button.

Look for a droplet forming on tip of needle. If you see the droplet, then you can dial in your dose.

If you do not see a droplet, repeat step 1 until you see a droplet of medicine.

NOTE: This step is necessary to check the drug flow and assure that the correct dose of Follistim AQ is administered.

Preparing the medication



If you have administered an injection using this cartridge before:

1. Attach a new BD micro-fine pen needle.
2. Dial the dosage knob until you hear one click. With the needle pointing upwards, push in the injection button.
3. You should see a droplet of medication. If you see the droplet, then you can dial in your dose.
4. If you do not see a droplet, repeat step 2 until you see a droplet of medicine.

Preparing the medication



The Follistim pen dosage can be set from 50 international units to 450 international unit doses in marked increments of 25 international units. To set the dose for your injection, turn the dosage knob until the dot beside the correct number (your prescribed dose) on the dosage scale is sitting in the middle of the dosage window.

NOTE: If by mistake, you dial past correct number, continue to turn knob past the 450 international units mark as far as it will turn (clicking sound will stop), then push the injection button in. You may redial the correct dose starting from zero upwards. **DO NOT TURN** knob backwards to fix mistake as you could lose drops of medication from the needle tip.

If there is not enough medication left in your current cartridge, you can give yourself a second injection using an additional cartridge in order to administer the entire dose as ordered by your physician. Or you can replace the current cartridge (save for future doses) and start over with a new unused Follistim AQ cartridge that would contain your full prescribed dose.

Preparing the medication

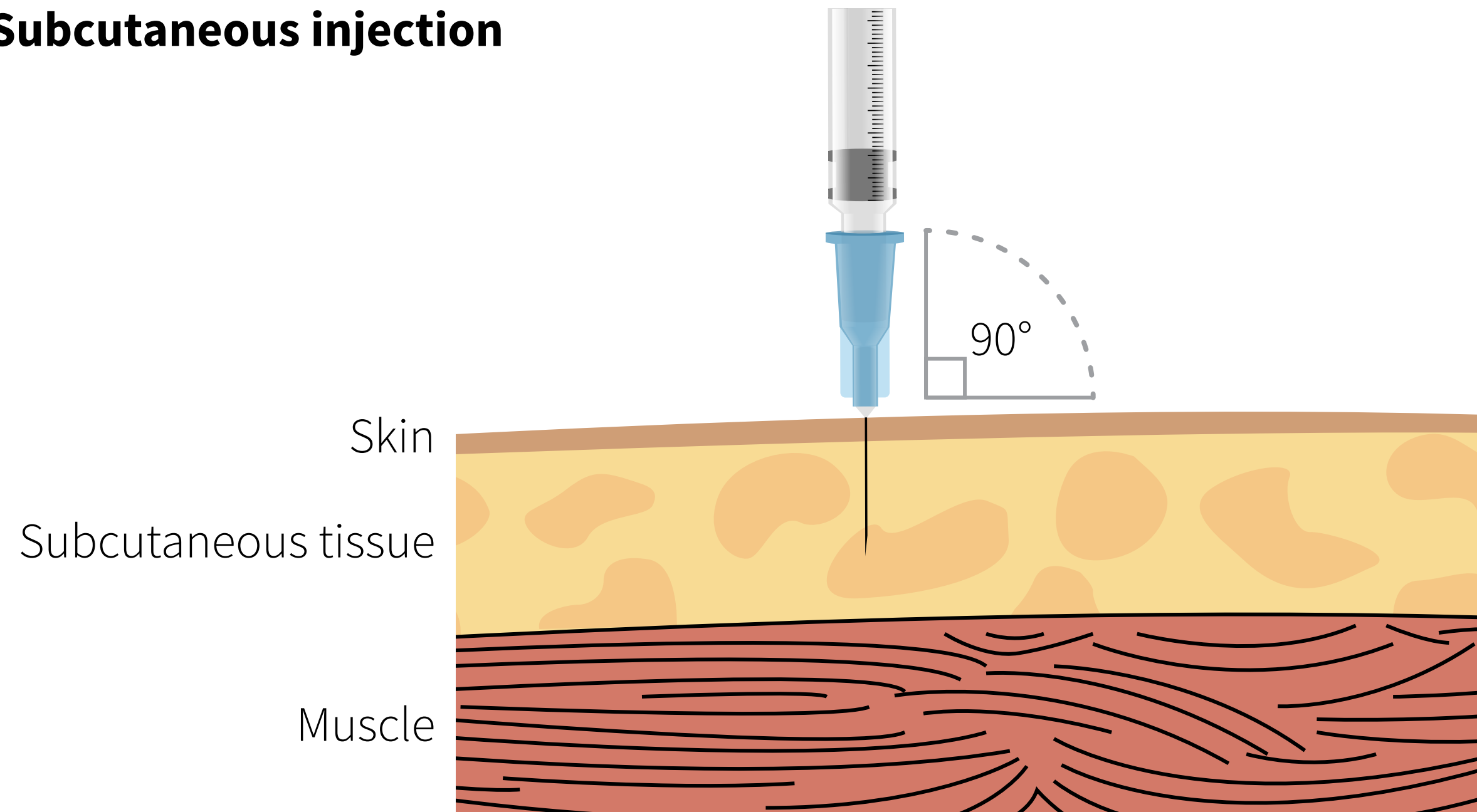
Once you have set the Follistim pen to your prescribed dose, you are ready for your injection.



→ **Subcutaneous injection**

Subcutaneous injection

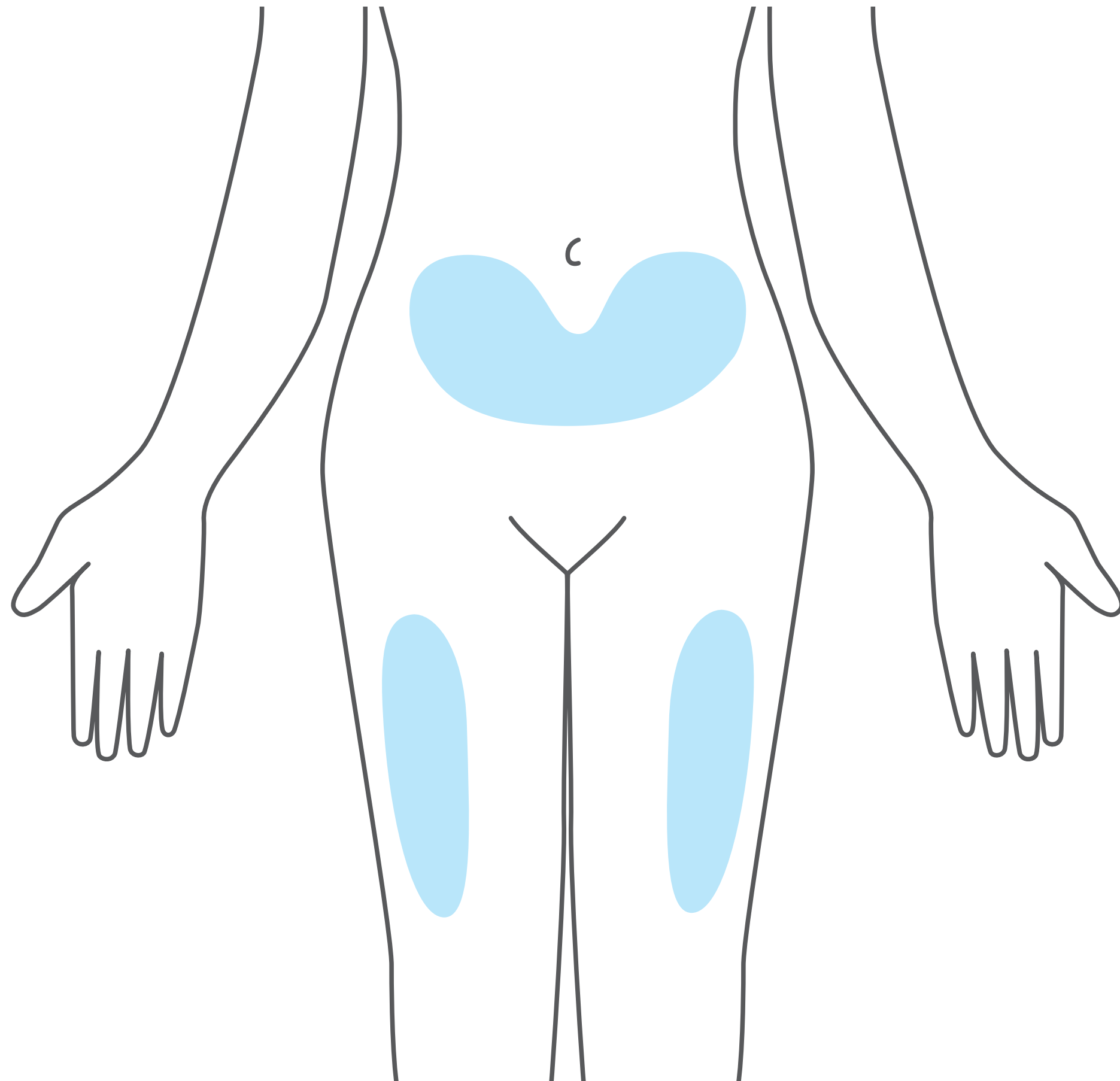
Subcutaneous injection



The Follistim AQ cartridge is to be administered subcutaneously.

A subcutaneous injection involves depositing medication into the fatty tissue directly beneath the skin using a short injection needle. The needle is inserted at a 90 degree angle to the skin unless you were instructed otherwise.

Subcutaneous injection



The recommended injection site for injecting Follistim AQ includes just below your belly button (navel) or the upper outer area of your thigh. Choose a different injection site each day to minimize local irritation. Always check with your physician or nurse for their injection site protocol. Avoid areas that are tender, red, hardened, swollen, scarred, itchy or burning.

Subcutaneous injection



Prior to giving the injection, clean the injection site with an alcohol wipe starting at the puncture site. Use firm pressure cleaning in a circular motion outward about 2 inches. Let the alcohol dry without fanning for a few seconds.

Subcutaneous injection



Hold the pen in your dominant hand like you would a pencil. Use the other hand to gently pinch a fold of skin. Insert the needle into the pinched skin area at a 90 degree angle to the skin or straight in (using a quick dart like motion).

Subcutaneous injection



After the needle is completely inserted into the skin, release the skin that you are pinching. Depress the injection button at a slow, steady rate. Press the button all the way in to assure delivery of the entire dose. Wait five seconds before pulling the needle out of the skin. Apply pressure with a sterile gauze pad if needed.

Subcutaneous injection



The dosage window should have a dot next to the “0”.

NOTE: If the button did not depress all the way in and there is a number (other than “0”) showing in the window, you did not have enough medication to deliver the entire dose. The number showing is the amount of medication you have yet to administer in order to complete your full dose. You will have to give yourself a second injection with a new cartridge in order to administer the entire dose as ordered by your physician. Write down the number showing in the window so that you will know how much to administer if you need a second injection. Start over with a new Follistim AQ cartridge and a new needle and repeat all the instructions up to this step. Choose a new injection site.

Subcutaneous injection



Once, the medication has been administered, remove the used needle from the cartridge by placing the outer needle shield on a firm surface with the opening facing up. Without holding the outer needle shield carefully insert the needle into the outer needle shield and push down firmly. The outer needle shield should cover the exposed needle. Twist off to the left, or counterclockwise and dispose of the needle in the sharps container (dispose of the needle only - the pen is for multiple uses).

Subcutaneous injection



If you need an additional injection: Replace the empty cartridge with a new cartridge. Repeat steps in preparing the medication.

Dial in the dose (the number you wrote down) and follow the previous steps to complete your dose.

If there is Follistim AQ cartridge medicine left for more injections, replace the pen cap back on the pen body and store the Follistim pen per manufacturer instructions.

Once the rubber stopper on the Follistim AQ cartridge has been pierced by a needle the product may be stored for a maximum of 28 days at 36-77°F (2-25°C) only. Do not freeze and keep the Follistim AQ cartridge away from light.

If the medication cartridge is empty, remove the cartridge by unscrewing the pen body from the cartridge holder (twisting to the left or counterclockwise) and dispose the empty cartridge into the sharps container.

→ [Medication information](#)

Medication information

Follistim AQ (Follitropin beta injection)

This drug is usually given to women who want to get pregnant. They have healthy ovaries but have trouble producing eggs on their own. This drug helps the ovaries produce many eggs during fertility treatment.

This drug also helps make sperm. It is given to men who have healthy testes but make little or no sex hormones because of a pituitary gland problem.

Common side effects

For those taking this drug to make eggs, the most common side effects are ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS), ovarian cysts, stomach discomfort and pain and lower abdominal pain. Other side effects include the following:

- headache
- bloating
- constipation
- diarrhea
- nausea
- pelvic pain
- enlarged uterus
- vaginal bleeding
- injection site reaction

Medication information

For those taking this drug to make many eggs for in vitro fertilization, the most common side effects are OHSS and stomach pain. Other side effects include the following:

- headache
- bloating
- constipation
- diarrhea
- nausea
- pelvic pain
- tender breasts
- bleeding between periods
- enlarged ovaries

- vaginal bleeding
- injection site reaction
- rash

In men taking this drug to make sperm, common side effects are headache, injection site reaction or pain, acne, rash, growth of breasts and dermoid cysts.

Serious side effects

This drug can excite the ovaries too much. It can make them too large. This can cause swelling or pain in the abdomen or pelvic area. Tell your doctor right away if you have these symptoms.

This drug can cause OHSS. This can fill the abdomen or chest with fluid. These problems can become fatal. Call your doctor right away if you have pain in your lower stomach, nausea, vomiting, weight gain, diarrhea, less urine or trouble breathing.

Medication information

This drug might cause severe problems in the blood vessels or lungs. This can raise the risk for blood clots and stroke. It might also raise the risk for heart attack. This drug might raise the risk for painful twisting of the ovaries. This drug might cause a pregnancy with more than one baby. This drug might cause a severe allergic reaction for some patients.

Women taking this drug might be more at risk for pregnancy outside of the uterus, miscarriage, birth defects or ovarian tumors.

Speak with your doctor for information about the risks and benefits of available treatments.

Other information

Only doctors with experience treating infertility should prescribe this drug. Ask your doctor if this drug is right for you. Some patients should not take this drug.

Do not take this drug if you have any of the following conditions:

- allergy to follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) or any other ingredients in Follistim AQ or similar drugs
- high FSH level or ovarian or testicular failure
- thyroid or adrenal gland problems
- allergy to the antibiotics streptomycin or neomycin
- tumors in the ovaries, breast, uterus, testes, hypothalamus or pituitary gland
- known or suspected pregnancy
- heavy or irregular vaginal bleeding
- ovarian cysts or enlarged ovaries not caused by polycystic ovary syndrome

Medication information

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding. It is not known if this drug passes into breastmilk.

The usual dose of this drug is unique for each patient. It will depend on the reason for taking the drug.

This drug is injected into the fatty tissue under the skin. Your doctor will teach you how to prepare and inject the drug.

Always follow the instructions provided by your doctor.

<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=96f11b5d-cc7b-48aa-830a-a28e1962d871>
Accessed 01/06/22

Ganirelix acetate injection

FOR SUBCUTANEOUS USE ONLY



- › Supplies needed
- › Preparing the medication
- › Subcutaneous injection
- › Medication information
- › Ganirelix acetate prescribing information
- › Fyremadel prescribing information

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY YOUR PHYSICIAN

Supplies needed



You will need the following supplies in preparation for the administration of Ganirelix acetate injection 250 mcg or Fyremadel 250 mcg prefilled syringe:

- Ganirelix acetate injection 250 mcg/0.5 mL prefilled syringe or Fyremadel 250mcg/0.5 mL prefilled syringe (27G x 1/2 inch needle attached)
NOTE: Needle shield contains natural rubber latex
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gauze pads (optional)
- Sharps container

→ Preparing the medication

Preparing the medication



Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Select a location for your supplies with a surface that is clean and dry such as a bathroom or kitchen counter or table. Wipe the area with antibacterial cloth or put a clean paper towel down for the supplies to rest on.

Preparing the medication



Check to be sure that you have the correct medication. Inspect your medications. Contact your doctor or pharmacy if:

- your medication has expired.
- the medication is cloudy or discolored (usually yellow).
- particles are floating in the medication vial.

Preparing the medication

Remove the protective cap from the prefilled syringe, being careful not to touch the needle tip. Place the needle cap sideways on a clean dry flat surface.



Preparing the medication

Remove any bubbles of air from the syringe by holding it with the needle facing upward and gently tapping on the syringe so that the air moves to the top of the syringe.

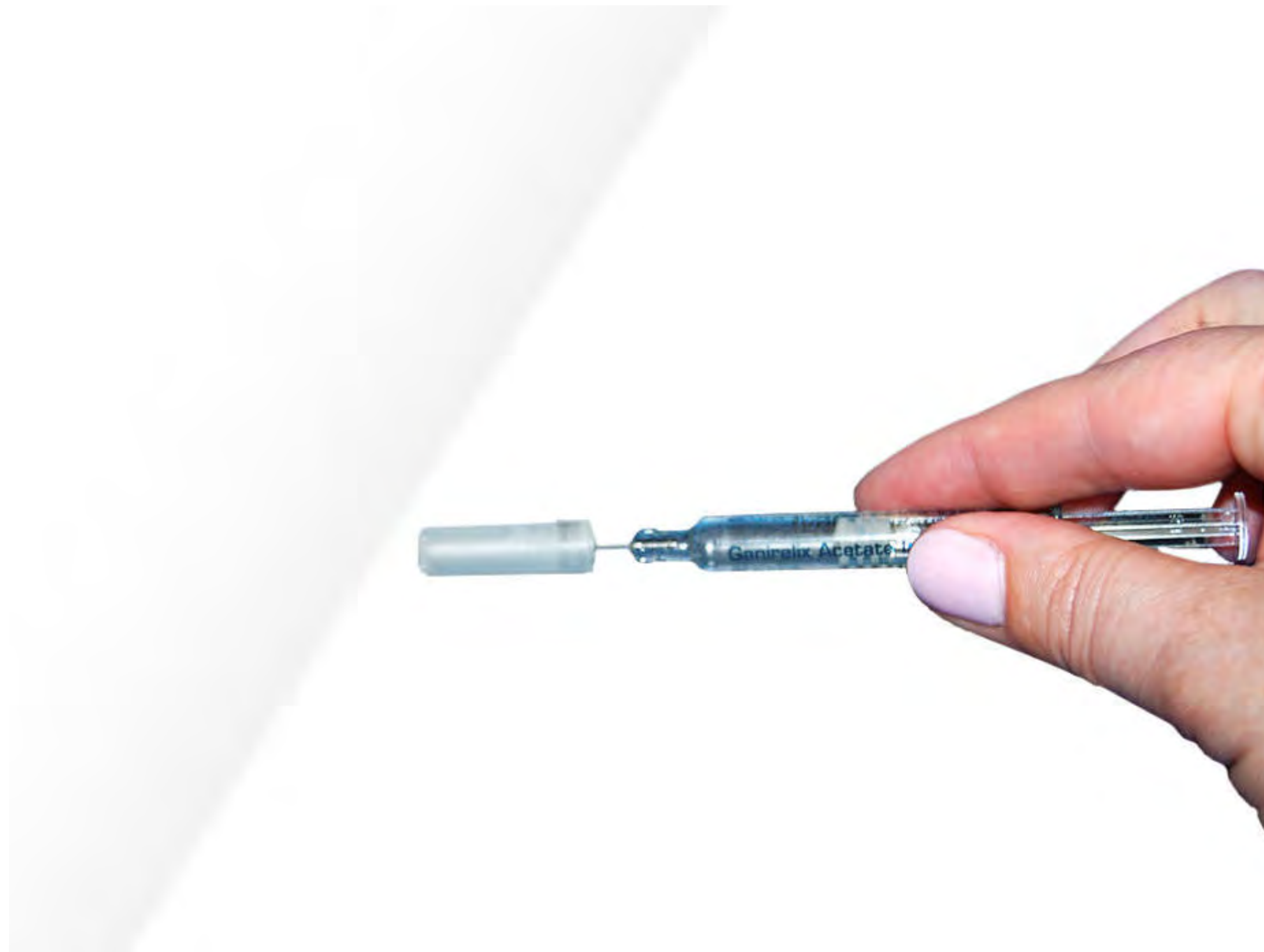


Preparing the medication

Gently push the plunger until a small drop of liquid reaches the tip of the needle. A small bubble of air in the syringe will not harm you.



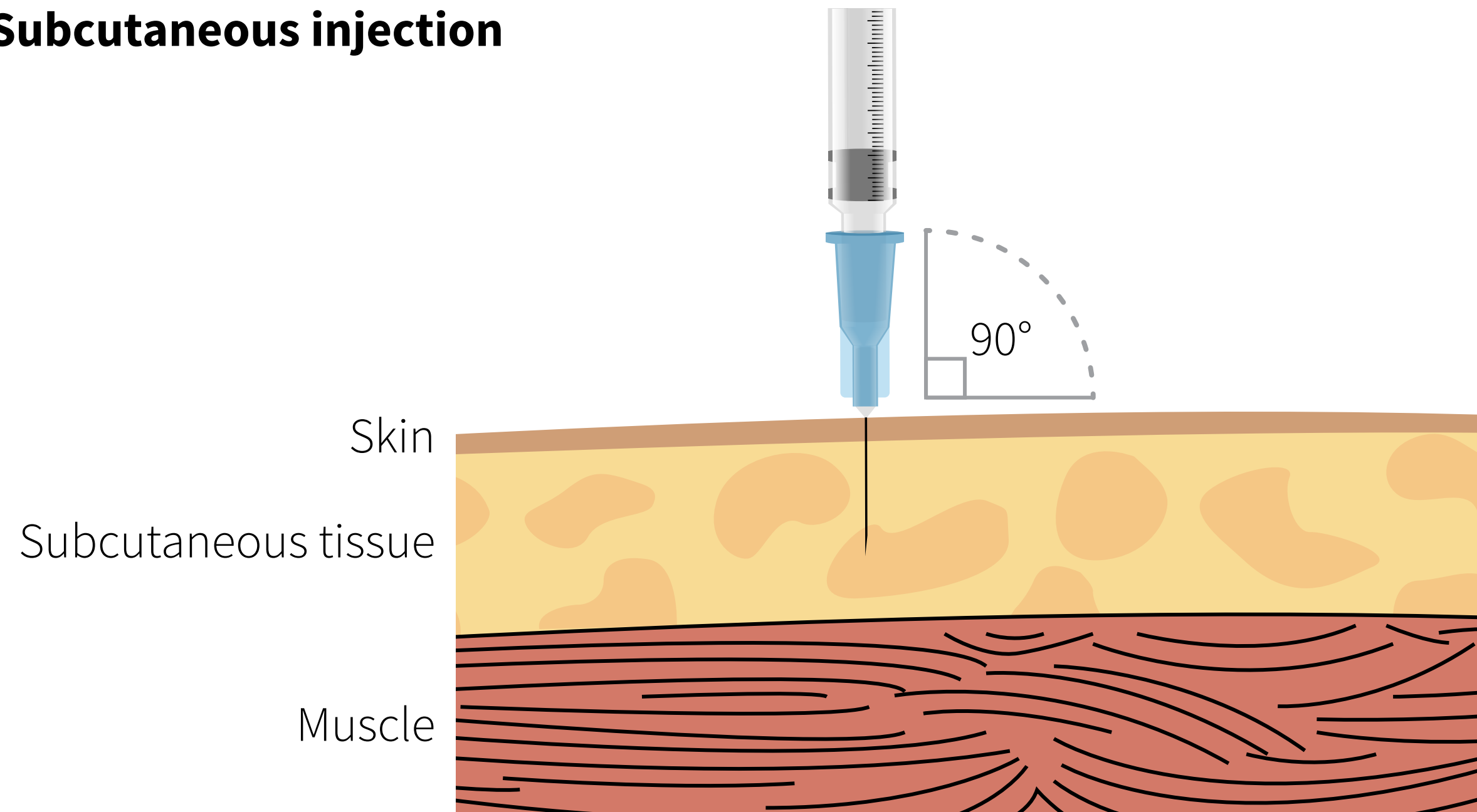
Preparing the medication



Carefully recap the needle by scooping up the cap. Be very sure to not contaminate the needle. Do not touch the needle or allow it to touch any surface. The prescribed dose of Ganirelix acetate injection 250 mcg is ready for administration.

Subcutaneous injection

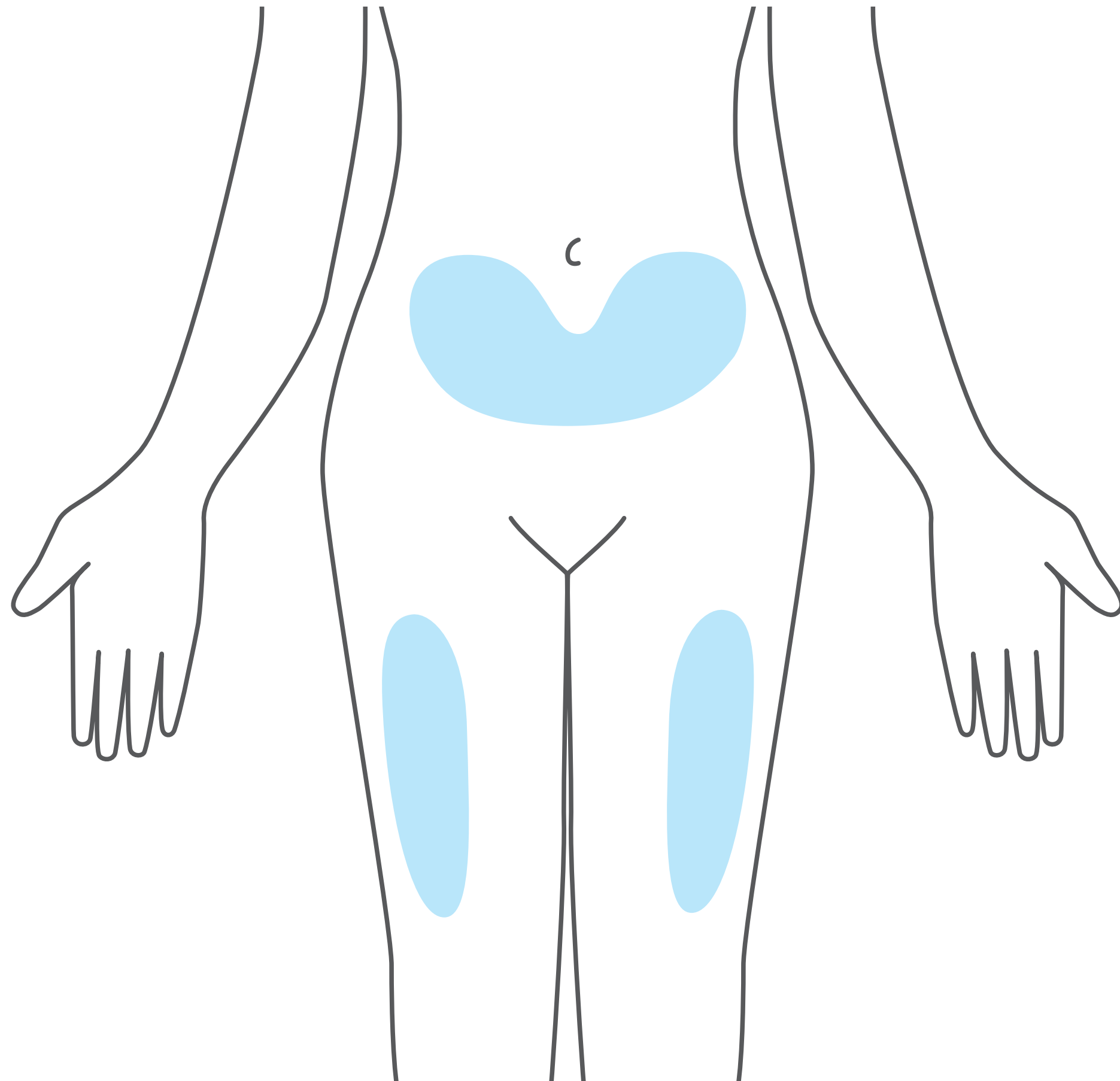
Subcutaneous injection



Ganirelix acetate injection is intended for subcutaneous administration only.

A subcutaneous injection involves depositing medication into the fatty tissue directly beneath the skin using a short injection needle. The needle is inserted at a 90 degree angle to the skin unless you were instructed otherwise.

Subcutaneous injection



The most convenient sites for subcutaneous injection are in the abdomen around the navel or upper thigh. Change the injection location each day to minimize discomfort. Always check with your physician or nurse for their injection site protocol. Avoid areas that are tender, hardened, swollen, scarred, itchy or burning.

Subcutaneous injection



Prior to giving the injection, clean the injection site with an alcohol wipe starting at the puncture site. Use firm pressure cleaning in a circular motion outward about 2 inches. Let the alcohol dry without fanning for a few seconds.

Subcutaneous injection



With syringe held upward, remove the needle cover. Hold syringe in your dominant hand between your thumb and finger as you would a pencil. With your free hand, gently pinch the skin at the injection site. You should be pinching one to two inches of skin.

Insert the needle into the pinched skin area at a 90 degree angle to the skin (using a quick dart like motion) to ensure that the medication is deposited into the fatty tissue.

Subcutaneous injection



After the needle is completely inserted into the skin, release the skin that you are pinching. Depress the plunger at a slow, steady rate until all the medication has been injected.

Subcutaneous injection



Wait for five seconds before pulling the needle out of the skin. Apply pressure with a sterile gauze pad if needed.

Subcutaneous injection



Once the medication has been administered, dispose of the needle and syringe in the sharps container. Do not recap the needle. The prefilled syringe can only be used once.

Medication information

Ganirelix acetate injection

This drug stops an egg from being released too soon from the ovary during fertility treatment.

Common side effects

Common side effects of this drug include the following:

- pelvic pain
- headache
- ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome
- vaginal bleeding
- injection site reaction
- nausea
- stomach pain

Serious side effects

Taking this drug during pregnancy could cause the death of an unborn child. Those who are pregnant or think they might be pregnant should not take this drug.

This drug might cause severe allergic reactions for some patients. This drug might also affect results of laboratory blood tests. Those taking this drug might be more at risk of having a baby with birth defects.

Speak with your doctor for information about the risks and benefits of available treatments.

Other information

Only doctors with experience treating infertility should prescribe this drug. Ask your doctor if this drug is right for you. Some patients should not take this drug.

Medication information

Do not take this drug if you have any of the following conditions:

- allergy to gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) or any other ingredients in Ganirelix acetate or similar drugs
- allergy to any form of GnRH
- known or suspected pregnancy

It is not known if this drug passes into breastmilk. Do not take this drug while breastfeeding.

The packaging for this drug contains rubber latex. This can cause allergic reactions in those allergic to latex.

This drug is given after starting treatment with follicle-stimulating hormone. The typical dose of Ganirelix acetate is 250 mcg. This is injected once a day. This dose is taken each day until the day of injection with human chorionic gonadotropin.

This drug is injected into the fatty tissue under the skin. Your doctor will teach you how to prepare and inject the drug.

Medication storage: Store medication per manufacturer instructions.

Always follow the instructions provided by your doctor.

<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=96118395-557e-4998-842d-424a59d574b6>
<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=5f0908b5-3551-47fd-95f7-3669b0dff7f1>
Accessed 4/20/22

Gonal-f multi-dose (Follitropin alfa for injection)

FOR SUBCUTANEOUS USE ONLY



- › Supplies needed
- › Preparing the medication
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- › Prescribing information

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY YOUR PHYSICIAN

Supplies needed

The following package combinations are available:

- 1 vial Gonal-f multi-dose 450 IU, 1 prefilled syringe of bacteriostatic water for injection, USP (0.9% benzyl alcohol), 1 mL and 5 syringes calibrated in FSH units (IU FSH) for injection
- 1 vial Gonal-f multi-dose 1050 IU, 1 pre-filled syringe of bacteriostatic water for injection, USP (0.9% benzyl alcohol), 2 mL and 10 syringes calibrated in FSH units (IU FSH) for injection



You will need the following supplies in preparation for the administration of Gonal-f multi-dose to deliver 450 IU or 1050 IU:

- Gonal-f multi-dose 450 or 1050 IU vial (white powder medication)
- Single pre-filled syringe of bacteriostatic water for injection, USP (to be used as diluent)
- 27G injection syringe with unit dose markings (marked in international units (IU), FSH doses from 37.5 IU to 600 IU) with mounted 27G x 1/2 inch needle
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gauze pads (optional)
- Sharps container

→ [Preparing the medication](#)

Preparing the medication



Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Select a location for your supplies with a surface that is clean and dry such as a bathroom or kitchen counter or table. Wipe the area with antibacterial cloth or put a clean paper towel down for the supplies to rest on.

Preparing the medication



Check to be sure that you have the correct medication. Inspect your medications. Contact your doctor or pharmacy if:

- your medication has expired.
- the medication is cloudy or discolored (usually yellow).
- particles are floating in the medication vial.

Preparing the medication

Flip off the plastic cap from the vial of Gonal-f multi-dose and clean the rubber stopper with an alcohol wipe. Let dry.



Preparing the medication

Remove the protective cap from the prefilled syringe of bacteriostatic water (diluent), being careful not to touch the syringe tip.



Preparing the medication



Place the vial of Gonal-f multi-dose powder medication on a firm surface and gently insert the needle of the prefilled syringe of sterile water (diluent) through the center of the rubber stopper into the vial of Gonal-f multi-dose powder.

Preparing the medication



Slowly inject **ALL** the contents of the prefilled syringe into the vial of medication by depressing the plunger on the syringe. Gently rotate the vial until you see the solution is clear. **DO NOT SHAKE VIAL.**

Preparing the medication



After all the diluent has been injected in the vial, remove the syringe from the vial and dispose in sharps container. You do not need to recap the needle. Do not use this syringe to inject your dose!

Preparing the medication



Clean the rubber stopper on the vial of Gonal-f multi-dose powder with an alcohol wipe. Let dry. Check the Gonal-f liquid solution is clear. Do not use if it contains particles. Always allow the liquid medication to adjust to room temperature before injecting your medication. Injecting medication that is cold may cause discomfort at the injection site.

Preparing the medication



Use the specially marked dosing syringe to prepare your dose of Gonal-f multi-dose. The dosing syringe is marked in international units (IU) doses (i.e. 75 international units, 150 international units, 225 international units). Peel back the paper cover and remove the syringe. Remove the needle cap. Place the needle cap sideways on a clean dry flat surface.

Preparing the medication

Pull the plunger back to the prescribed dose mark.



Preparing the medication



With the vial of Gonal-f multi-dose medication on a firm surface, gently insert the needle of dosing syringe through the marked center of the rubber stopper into the Gonal-f multi-dose vial. Inject the air gently and slowly into the vial, as this will enable you to easily withdraw the medication.

Preparing the medication



Invert the vial of medication (without removing or touching the needle). Assure that the tip of the needle is under the fluid level. Slowly pull back on the plunger to slightly more than the recommended dose. Without removing the needle from the vial, hold the vial and needle up straight. Slowly push the plunger to your prescribed dose to clear away any air bubbles. This will ensure accurate dosing in the syringe.

Preparing the medication



Carefully remove the syringe from the vial and recap the needle by scooping up the cap. Be very sure to not contaminate the needle. Do not touch the needle or allow the needle to touch any surface. The dosing syringe is now filled with the prescribed dose of Gonal-f multi-dose medication and is ready for administration.

Preparing the medication



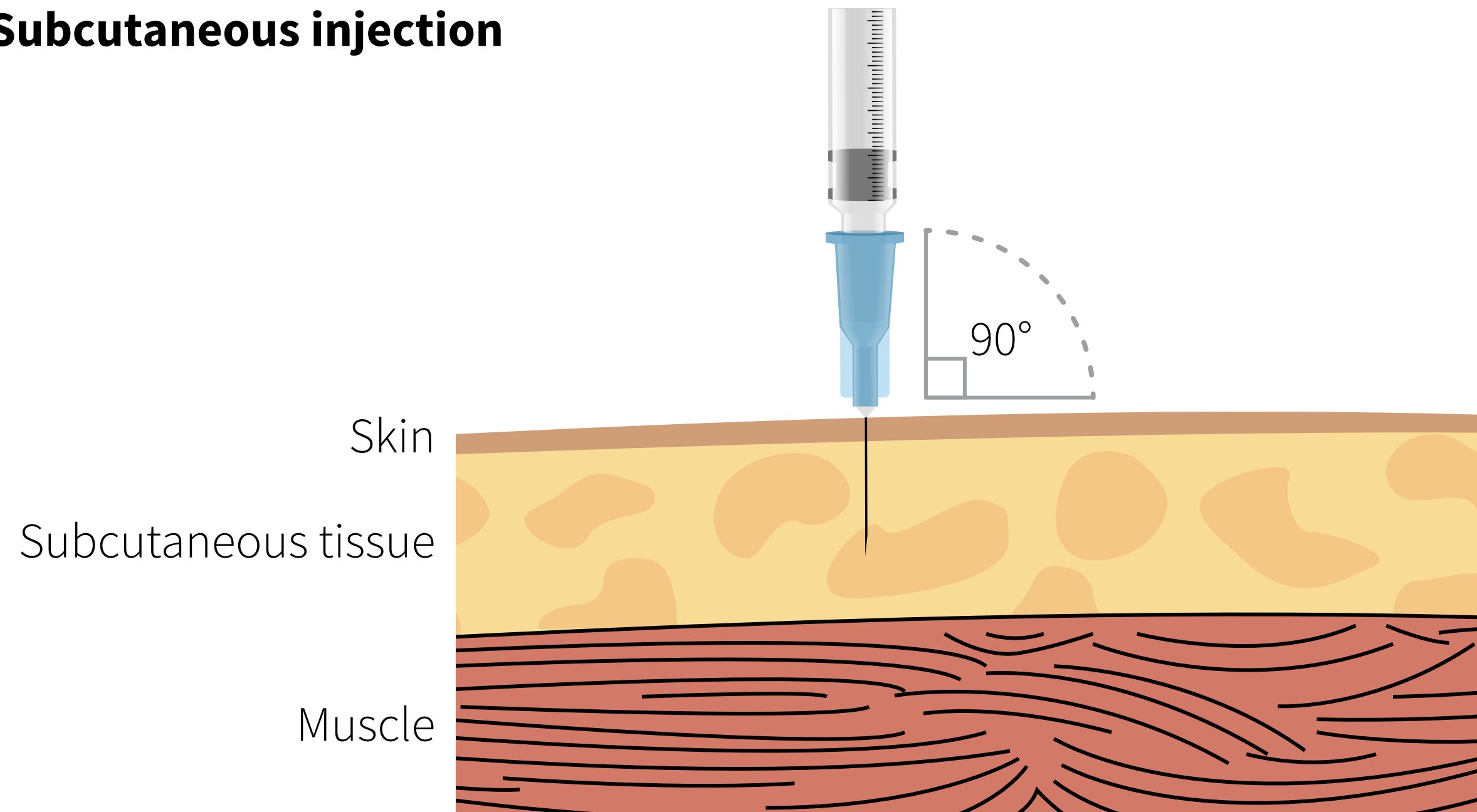
Once reconstituted, store the remaining Gonal-f multi-dose liquid medication per manufacturer's instructions.

Medication storage: Store powder refrigerated or at room temperature of 2°C to 25°C (36°F to 77°F). Protect from light; do not freeze. Following reconstitution, multidose vials may be stored under refrigeration or at room temperature for up to 28 days.

→ **Subcutaneous injection**

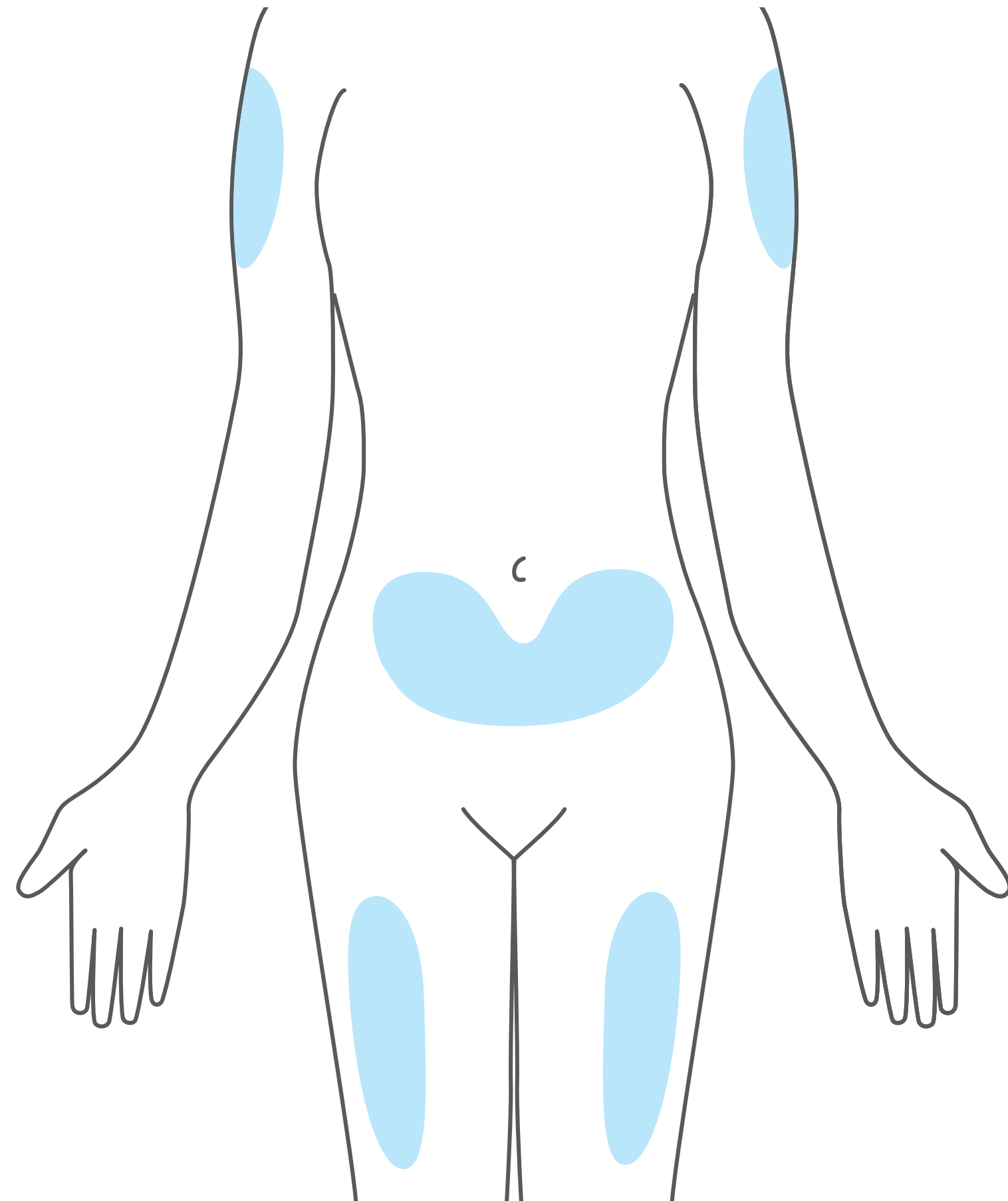
Subcutaneous injection

Subcutaneous injection



A subcutaneous injection involves depositing medication into the fatty tissue directly beneath the skin using a short injection needle. The needle is inserted at a 90 degree angle to the skin unless you were instructed otherwise.

Subcutaneous injection



Usual injection sites include the abdomen, upper leg or upper arm. Change the injection location each day to minimize discomfort. Always check with your physician or nurse for their injection site protocol. Avoid areas that are tender, hardened, swollen, scarred, itchy or burning.

Subcutaneous injection



Prior to giving the injection, clean the injection site with an alcohol wipe starting at the puncture site. Use firm pressure cleaning in a circular motion outward about 2 inches. Let the alcohol dry without fanning for a few seconds.

Subcutaneous injection



Hold syringe in your dominant hand between your thumb and finger as you would a pencil. With your free hand, gently pinch the skin at the injection site. You should be pinching one to two inches of skin.

Subcutaneous injection



Insert the needle into the pinched skin area at a 90 degree angle to the skin, unless you were instructed otherwise, (using a quick dart like motion) to ensure that the medication is deposited into the fatty tissue.

Subcutaneous injection



After the needle is completely inserted into the skin, release the skin that you are pinching. Depress the plunger at a slow, steady rate until all the medication has been injected. Wait for five seconds before pulling the needle out of the skin. Apply pressure with a sterile gauze pad if needed.

Subcutaneous injection



Once the medication has been administered, dispose of the needle and syringe in the sharps container. Do not recap the needle.

Medication information

Gonal-f multi-dose (Follitropin alfa for injection)

This drug is usually given to women who want to get pregnant. They have healthy ovaries but have trouble producing eggs on their own. This drug helps the ovaries produce many eggs during fertility treatment.

This drug also helps make sperm. It is given to men with healthy testes but make little or no sex hormones because of a problem with the pituitary gland or hypothalamus.

Common side effects

Headache, ovarian cysts, nausea and upper respiratory tract infections are the most common side effects for women taking this drug.

In women taking this drug to make eggs, other side effects include the following:

- bleeding between periods
- stomach pain

- diarrhea
- ovarian hyperstimulation
- gas
- pain
- back pain
- sinus infection
- mood changes
- breast pain
- flu-like symptoms
- fever
- acne
- painful period
- abnormal cells on the cervix

Medication information

- menstrual problems
- vomiting
- dizziness
- sore throat
- genital yeast infection
- injection site pain
- problems with the ovaries
- indigestion
- coughing
- urinary tract infection
- vaginal discharge
- vaginal bleeding
- migraine

- fatigue
- asthma
- nervousness
- sleepiness
- low blood pressure

In women taking this drug to make many eggs for fertility treatment, other side effects include the following:

- abdominal pain
- pelvic pain
- bleeding between periods
- vaginal bleeding
- gas
- weight gain

Medication information

- vaginal discharge
- surgery to remove fetal tissue from the uterus
- painful period
- diarrhea
- vomiting
- dizziness
- prickly or numb feeling in the body
- swollen stomach
- chest pain
- fatigue
- shortness of breath
- poor appetite
- anxiety

- sleepiness
- injection site swelling
- injection site reaction
- itching
- genital itching
- muscle pain
- thirst
- irregular heartbeat

For men taking this drug, the most common side effects are acne, growth of breasts, breast pain, fatigue and injection site pain. Other side effects include enlarged veins in the scrotum, injection site reaction, coughing up blood, infected cyst on the tailbone and swollen lymph nodes.

Medication information

Serious side effects

This drug can excite the ovaries too much. It can make them too large. This can cause swelling or pain in the abdomen or pelvic area. It might cause painful twisting of the ovaries. Tell your doctor right away if you have these symptoms.

This drug can cause ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS). This can fill the abdomen or chest with fluid. These problems can become fatal. Call your doctor right away if you have severe pelvic pain, nausea, vomiting, sudden weight gain or bloating.

This drug might cause severe problems in the blood vessels or lungs. This can raise the risk for blood clots and stroke. It might also raise the risk of heart attack.

This drug might cause bleeding in the abdomen. This drug might also cause a pregnancy with more than one baby.

Some patients taking this drug have had miscarriage. Others have had pregnancy outside of the uterus. Some have had early labor or fever after giving birth.

Others have reported birth defects and ovarian tumors. However, the manufacturer states it is not clear if this drug is the cause of these conditions.

Speak with your doctor for information about the risks and benefits of available treatments.

Other information

Only doctors with experience treating infertility should prescribe this drug. Ask your doctor if this drug is right for you. Some patients should not take this drug.

Medication information

Do not take this drug if you have any of the following conditions:

- allergy to follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) or any other ingredients in Gonal-f multi-dose or similar drugs
- high FSH level or ovarian or testicular failure
- thyroid or adrenal gland problems
- sex hormone-dependent tumors in or around the sex organs
- pituitary tumor or other brain tumor
- unusual uterine bleeding
- ovarian cysts or enlarged ovaries
- known or suspected pregnancy

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding. It is not known if this drug passes into breastmilk.

The usual dose of this drug is unique for each patient. It will depend on the reason for taking the drug.

This drug is injected into the fatty tissue under the skin. Your doctor will teach you how to prepare and inject the drug.

Always follow the instructions provided by your doctor.

<http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=ae85b9c3-e7eb-4981-a5d9-346050e8f189>
Accessed 01/06/22

Gonal-f RFF 75 (Follitropin alfa for injection)

FOR SUBCUTANEOUS USE ONLY



- › Supplies needed
- › Preparing the medication
- › Subcutaneous injection
- › Medication information
- › Prescribing information

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY YOUR PHYSICIAN

Supplies needed



You will need the following supplies in preparation for the administration of Gonal-f RFF 75 international unit vial:

- Gonal-f RFF 75 international unit vial. You may require multiple vials of medication depending on the dose prescribed by your physician.
- 29G ½ inch red injection needle
- 18G 1½ inch mixing needle
- Prefilled syringe of sterile water for injection USP (1 mL)
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gauze pads (optional)
- Sharps container

→ [Preparing the medication](#)

Preparing the medication



Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Select a location for your supplies with a surface that is clean and dry such as a bathroom or kitchen counter or table. Wipe the area with antibacterial cloth or put a clean paper towel down for the supplies to rest on.

Preparing the medication



Check to be sure that you have the correct medication. Inspect your medications. Contact your doctor or pharmacy if:

- your medication has expired.
- the medication is cloudy or discolored (usually yellow).
- particles are floating in the medication vial.

Preparing the medication

Using your thumb, flip off the protective plastic cap from the Gonal-f RFF vial of medication and clean the rubber stopper with an alcohol wipe and let dry.



Preparing the medication

Hold the barrel of the prefilled syringe of sterile water diluent in one hand and twist off the protective cap on the prefilled syringe. If grey cap remains, simply remove it.



Preparing the medication



Remove the 18G 1 ½ inch mixing needle (pink) from its sterile packaging and attach it to the syringe top by twisting it to the right, or clockwise. To avoid contamination, be sure not to touch the top of the syringe. Remove the protective needle cap by pulling upward, be sure not to touch the tip of the needle. Place the needle cap sideways on a clean dry flat surface.

Preparing the medication



Place the vial of Gonal-f RFF powder medication on a firm surface and gently insert the needle of the prefilled syringe of sterile water for injection (diluent) into the marked circle on the rubber stopper.

Preparing the medication



Slowly inject **ALL** the contents of the prefilled syringe into the vial of medication. Gently rotate the vial until you see the solution is clear. **DO NOT SHAKE VIAL.**

Preparing the medication

Invert the vial and syringe as one unit. Assure that the tip of the needle is below the level of liquid and pull back on the plunger to remove all of the medication. Remove all medication from the vial by keeping the needle tip below the fluid level.

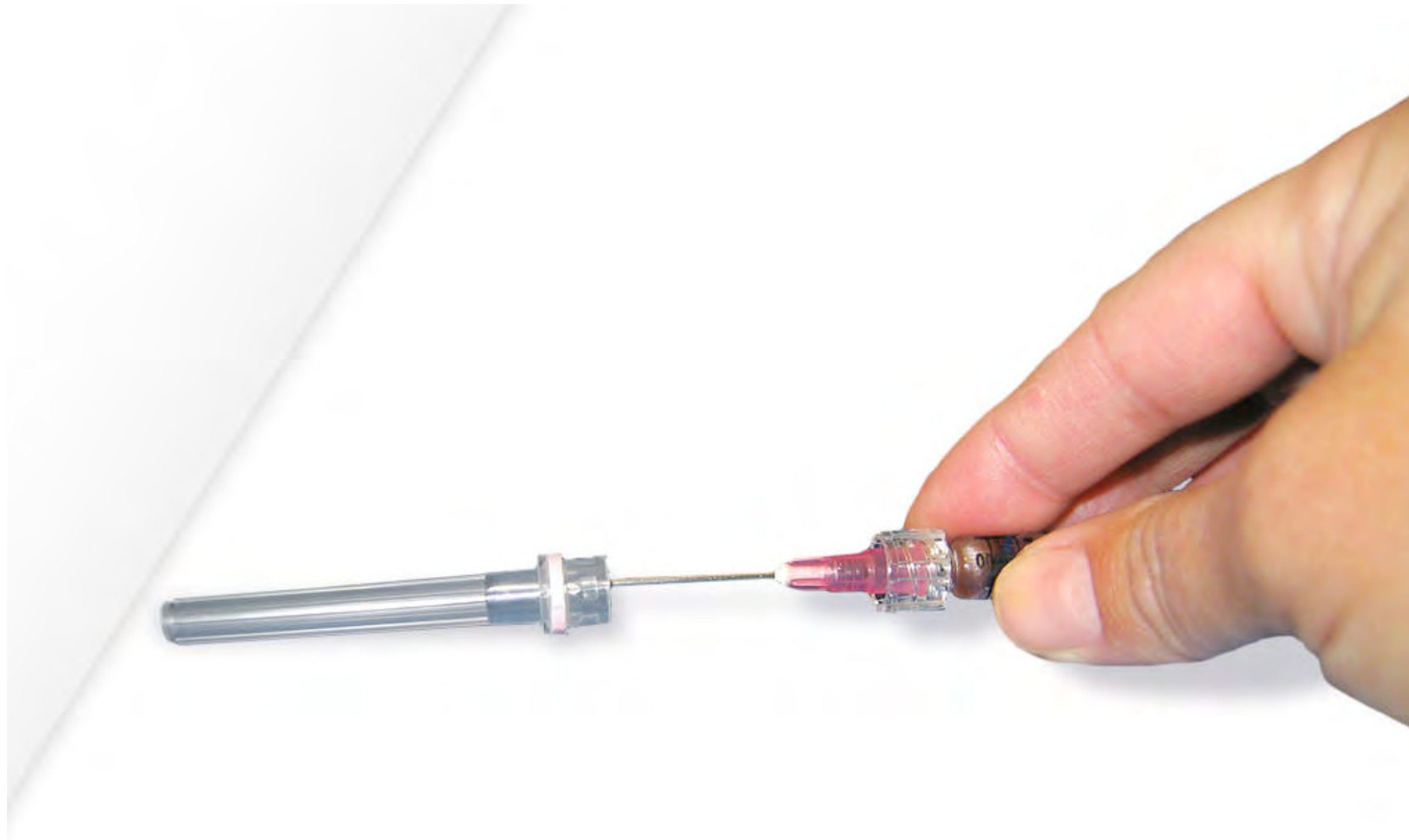


Preparing the medication



If mixing multiple vials of Gonal-f RFF 75 international units, repeat the last two steps using the syringe of liquid medication you have already mixed. As an example, you would take the second vial of Gonal-f RFF 75 IU powder and inject the previously mixed medication into the second vial of powder using the same 18G 1 ½ inch needle and syringe to reconstitute additional vials. A new alcohol wipe should be used to clean each vial.

Preparing the medication



Carefully recap the mixing needle by scooping up the cap with the needle and twist off to remove.

Preparing the medication



Dispose of the mixing needle in a sharps container.

Preparing the medication

Remove the 29G ½ inch injection needle from its sterile packaging and attach it to the syringe by twisting to the right, or clockwise.



Preparing the medication

Remove the needle cap by pulling upward, be sure not to touch the tip of the needle. Place the needle cap sideways on a clean dry flat surface.

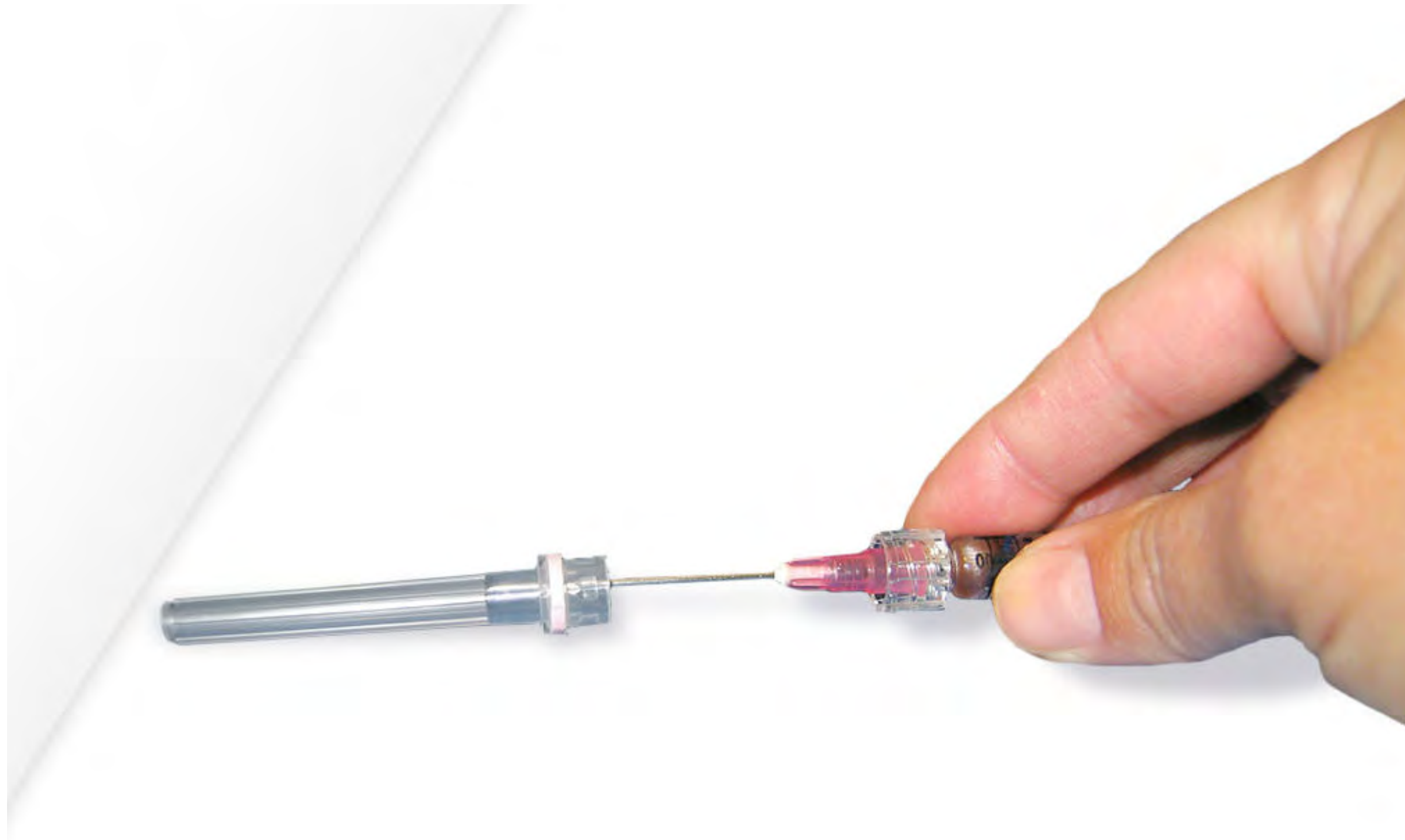


Preparing the medication



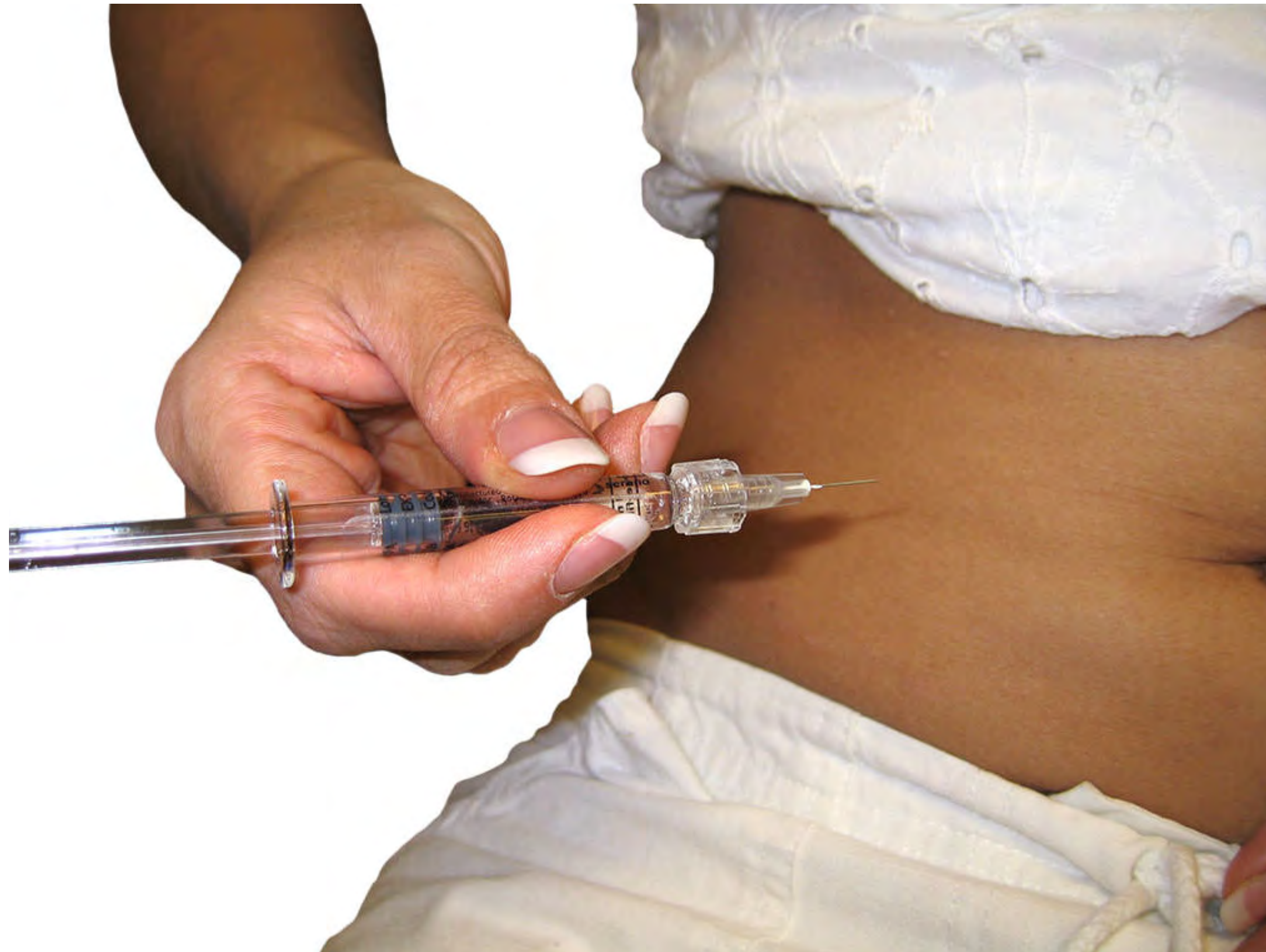
At this point you may remove bubbles of air from the syringe by holding it with the needle facing upward and tapping on the syringe so that the air moves to the top of the syringe and a drop of liquid appears on the tip of the needle. Slowly push the plunger back to your prescribed dose. This also will clear any air in the syringe.

Preparing the medication



Carefully recap the needle by scooping up the cap. Be very sure to not contaminate the needle. Do not touch the needle or allow it to touch any surface.

Preparing the medication



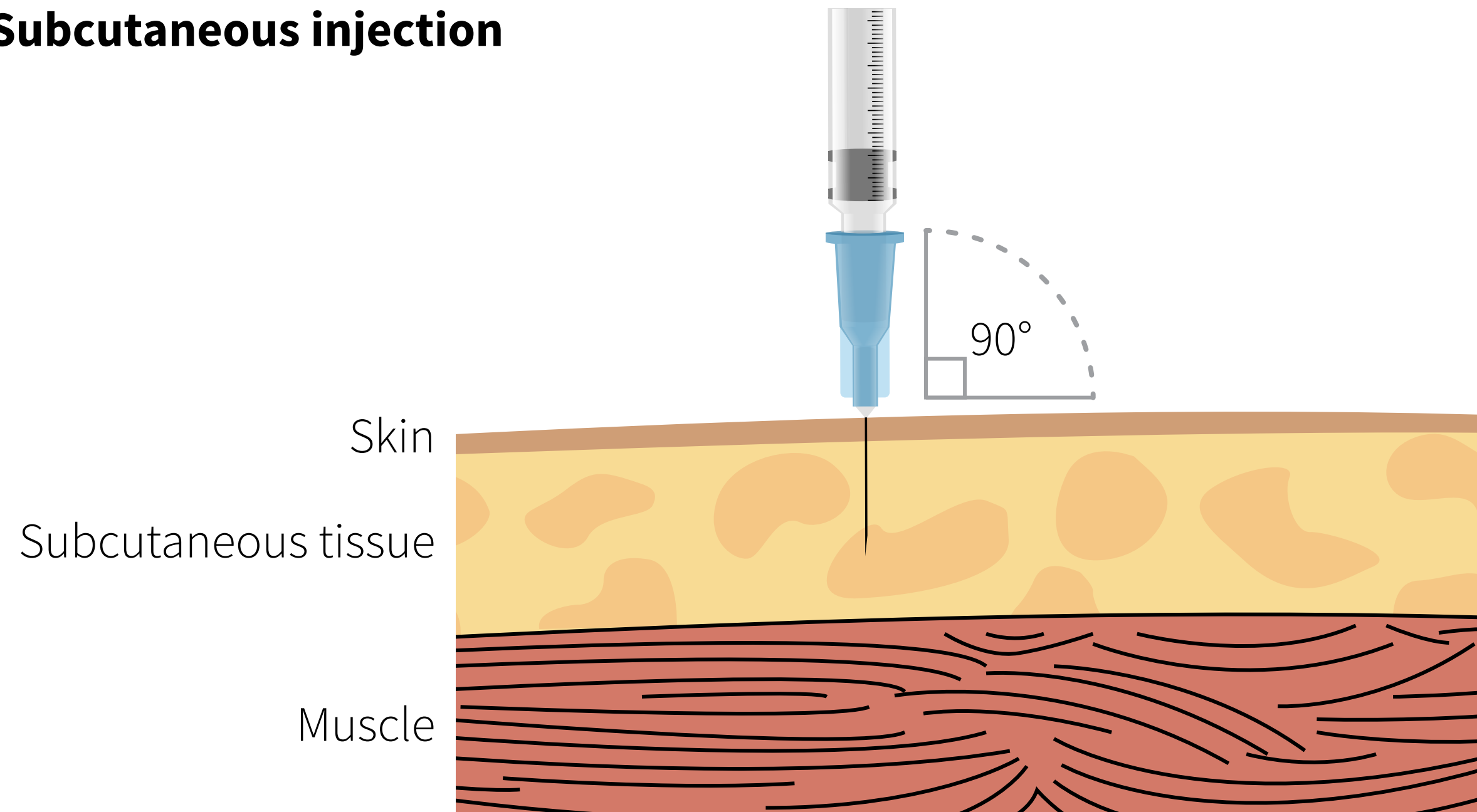
The prescribed dose of Gonal-f RFF is ready for administration.

NOTE: Use reconstituted Gonal-f RFF 75 IU vial immediately.

→ **Subcutaneous injection**

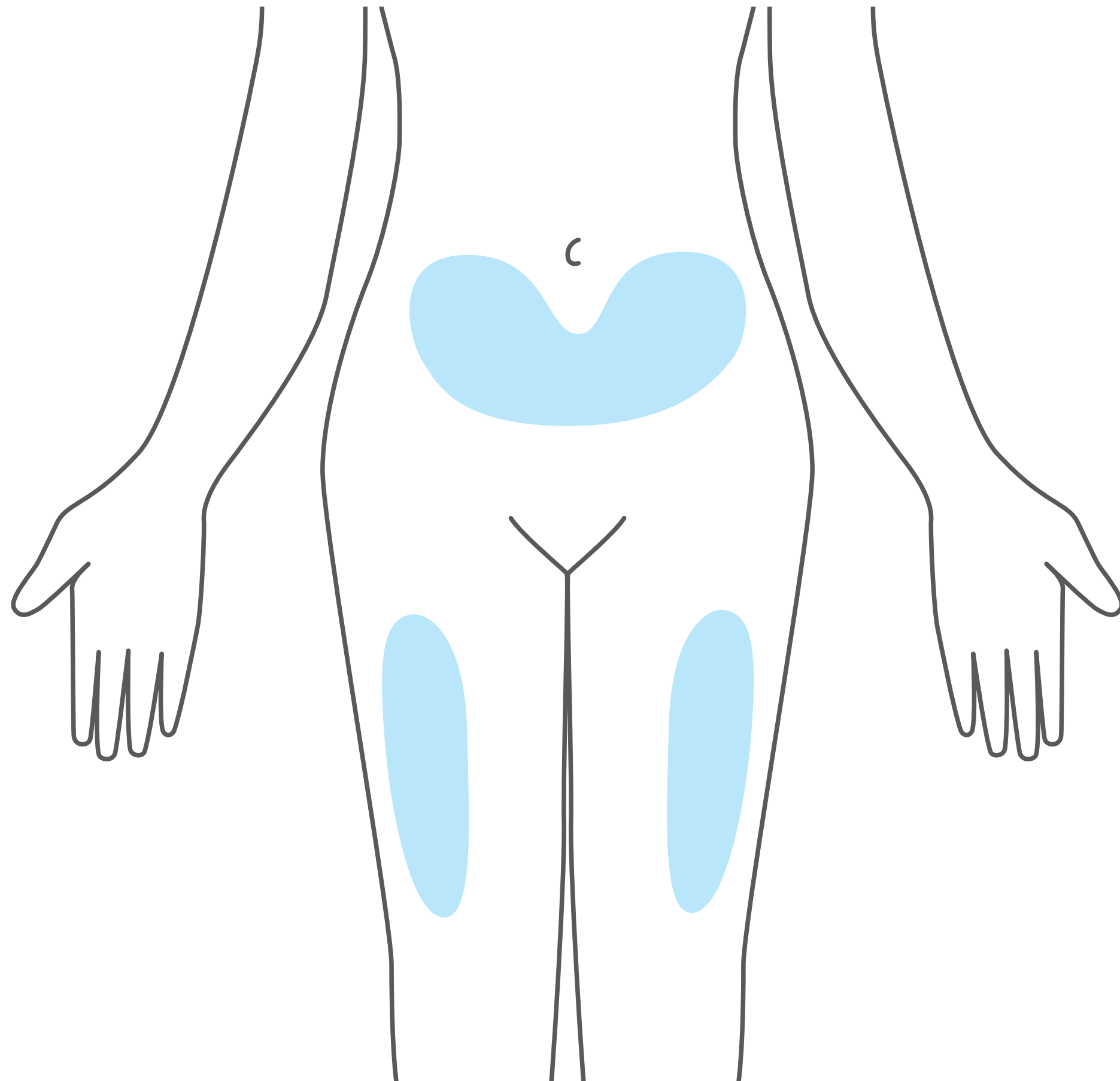
Subcutaneous injection

Subcutaneous injection



A subcutaneous injection involves depositing medication into the fatty tissue directly beneath the skin using a short injection needle. The needle is inserted at a 90 degree angle to the skin unless you were instructed otherwise.

Subcutaneous injection



The most convenient sites for subcutaneous injection are in the abdomen around the navel or upper thigh. Change the injection location each day to minimize discomfort. Always check with your physician or nurse for their preferred injection site protocol. Avoid areas that are tender, hardened, swollen, scarred, itchy or burning.

Subcutaneous injection



Prior to giving the injection, clean the injection site with an alcohol wipe starting at the puncture site. Use firm pressure cleaning in a circular motion outward about 2 inches. Let the alcohol dry without fanning for a few seconds.

Subcutaneous injection



With the syringe held upward, remove the needle cover. Hold syringe in your dominant hand between your thumb and finger as you would a pencil. With your free hand, gently pinch the skin at the injection site. You should be pinching one to two inches of skin.

Subcutaneous injection



Insert the needle into the pinched skin area at a 90 degree angle to the skin (using a quick dart like motion) to ensure that the medication is deposited into the fatty tissue.

Subcutaneous injection



After the needle is completely inserted into the skin, release the skin that you are pinching. Depress the plunger at a slow, steady rate until all the medication has been injected. Wait for five seconds before pulling the needle out of the skin. Apply pressure with a sterile gauze pad if needed.

Subcutaneous injection

Once the medication has been administered, dispose of the needle and syringe in the sharps container. Do not recap the needle.



Medication information

Gonal-f RFF (Follitropin alfa for injection)

This drug is usually given to women who want to get pregnant. They have healthy ovaries but have trouble producing eggs on their own. This drug helps the ovaries produce many eggs during fertility treatment.

Common side effects

For those taking this drug to make eggs, the most common side effects are headache, stomach pain, ovarian hyperstimulation, sore throat and nasal inflammation. Other common side effects include the following:

- breast pain
- vaginal bleeding
- sinus infection
- pain at the injection site
- migraine
- nausea
- gas
- diarrhea
- ovarian cyst
- back pain
- acne
- indigestion
- constipation
- mouth sores
- pelvic pain
- uterine bleeding
- injection site swelling
- pain
- fever

Medication information

- hot flashes
- discomfort
- frequent urination
- urinary tract infection
- viral infection

For those taking this drug to make many eggs for fertility treatment, stomach pain, headache and a swollen stomach are the most common side effects. Other common side effects include the following:

- injection site bruising
- nausea
- injection site pain
- ovarian hyperstimulation
- injection site inflammation

- injection site reaction
- unusual uterine or vaginal bleeding
- pain
- injection site swelling
- dizziness

Serious side effects

This drug can excite the ovaries too much. It can make them too large. This can cause swelling or pain in the abdomen or pelvic area. It might cause painful twisting of the ovaries. Tell your doctor right away if you have these symptoms.

This drug can cause ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS). This can fill the abdomen or chest with fluid. These problems can become fatal. Call your doctor right away if you have severe pelvic pain, nausea, vomiting, sudden weight gain or bloating.

Medication information

This drug might cause severe problems in the blood vessels or lungs. This can raise the risk for blood clots and stroke. It might also raise the risk of heart attack.

This drug might cause bleeding in the abdomen. It might cause a pregnancy with more than one baby.

Some patients taking this drug have had miscarriage. Others have had pregnancy outside of the uterus. Some have had early labor or fever after giving birth.

Others have reported birth defects and ovarian tumors. However, the manufacturer states it is not clear if this drug is the cause of these conditions.

Speak with your doctor for information about the risks and benefits of available treatments.

Other information

Only doctors with experience treating infertility should prescribe this drug. Ask your doctor if this drug is right for you. Some patients should not take this drug.

Do not take this drug if you have any of the following conditions:

- allergy to follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) or any other ingredients in Gonal-f RFF or similar drugs
- high FSH level or ovarian failure
- thyroid or adrenal gland problems
- sex hormone-dependent tumors in or around the sex organs
- pituitary tumor or other brain tumor
- unusual uterine bleeding
- ovarian cysts or enlarged ovaries
- known or suspected pregnancy

Medication information

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding. It is not known if this drug passes into breastmilk.

The usual dose of this drug is unique for each patient. It will depend on the reason for taking the drug.

This drug is injected into the fatty tissue under the skin. Your doctor will teach you how to prepare and inject the drug.

Always follow the instructions provided by your doctor.

<http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=aa759a1b-2c1d-438b-bd7e-019a2067699d>
Accessed 01/06/22

Gonal-f RFF redi-ject (Follitropin alfa injection)

FOR SUBCUTANEOUS USE ONLY



- › Supplies needed
- › Preparing the medication
- › Subcutaneous injection
- › Medication information
- › Prescribing information

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY YOUR PHYSICIAN

Supplies needed

Gonal-f RFF redi-ject is a disposable prefilled auto-injection pen device intended for multiple and variable doses of a liquid medication in international units (IU) of follitropin alfa.

The following three different dosage strengths are available:

- Gonal-f RFF redi-ject Injection to deliver a minimum total of 300 IU/0.5 mL and 5 single-use 29G x ½ inch needles
- Gonal-f RFF redi-ject Injection to deliver a minimum total of 450 IU/0.75 mL and 7 single-use 29G x ½ inch needles
- Gonal-f RFF redi-ject Injection to deliver a minimum total of 900 IU/1.5 mL and 14 single-use 29G x ½ inch needles

Note: Each dosage strength is color coded differently according to their IU strength.

300 IU / 0.5 mL

450 IU / 0.75 mL

900 IU / 1.5 mL

Supplies you will need to administer Gonal-f redi-ject dosage include:

- Gonal-f RFF redi-ject pen
- One new single-use, individually wrapped disposable administration needle (comes packaged with the Gonal-f RFF redi-ject medication)
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gauze pad (optional)
- Sharps container
- Treatment diary for recording your injections that comes with your pen (optional, if instructed by your clinic)

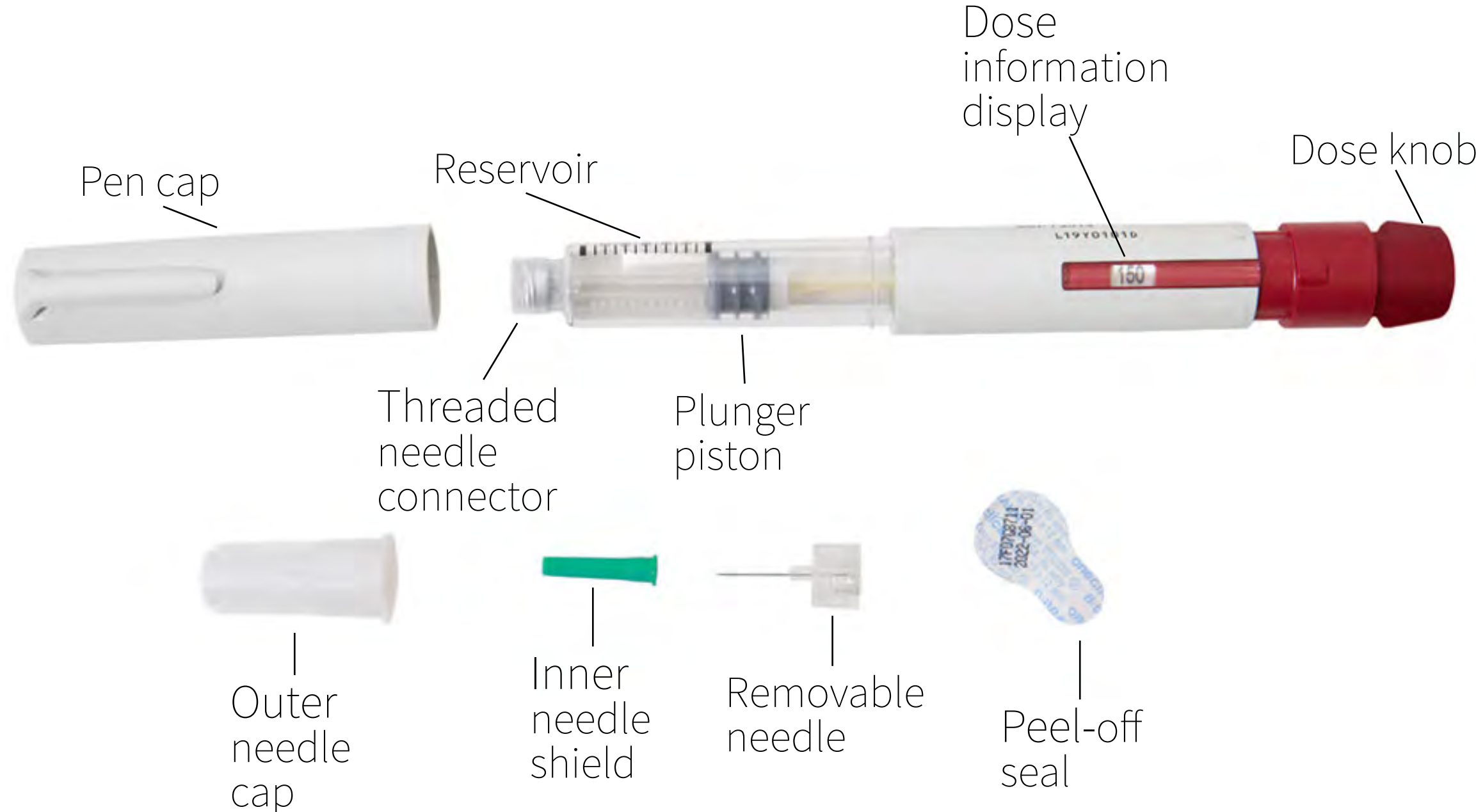
→ [Preparing the medication](#)

Preparing the medication



Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Select a location for your supplies with a surface that is clean and dry such as a bathroom or kitchen counter or table. Wipe the area with antibacterial cloth or put a clean paper towel down for the supplies to rest on.

Preparing the medication



Get familiar with the parts of your pen and needle

Gonal-f RFF redi-ject pen comes in 300 international units, 450 international units and 900 international units disposable, prefilled, multiple dose pens. Each pen has a dosage dial clearly marked in 12.5 international units increments. Check to be sure that you have the correct medication and dosage strength.

- Do not shake the pen. If you shake the pen, air bubbles may appear in medicine.

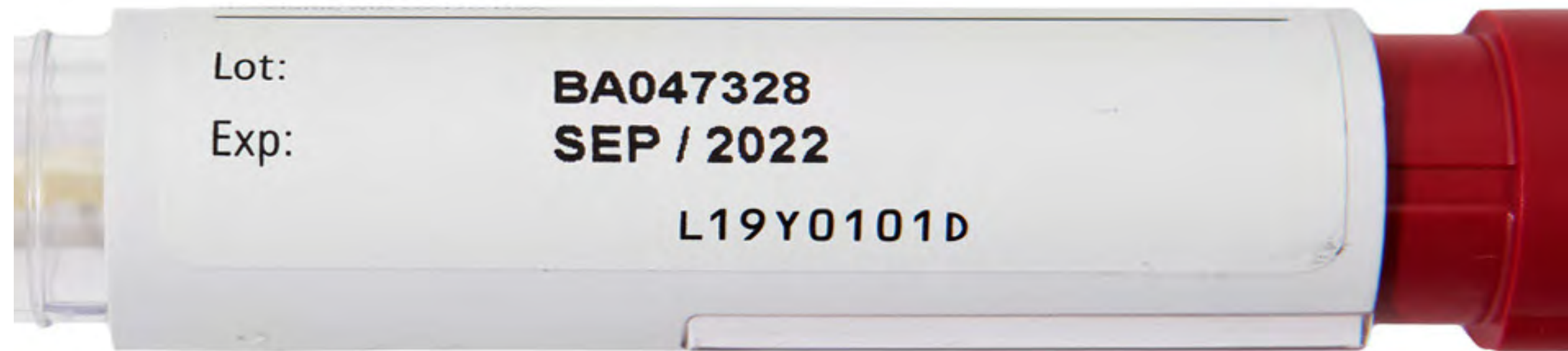
Preparing the medication



Make sure the Gonal-f RFF redi-ject pen is at room temperature before using. Remove Gonal-f redi-ject from the refrigerator at least 30 minutes prior to injection so the medication warms to room temperature to avoid the discomfort of a cold injection.

Preparing the medication

Check the expiration date of the medication noted on the pen label. **Do not use an expired pen. Get a new pen from your pharmacy.**



Preparing the medication

Pull off the protective pen cap from the Gonal-f RFF redi-ject and set aside, being careful not to touch the pen tip. You will place it back on the pen later.



Preparing the medication



Check the reservoir in the pen. There should be no cracks in the plastic and clear liquid in the reservoir. Do not use if there is no liquid medication or liquid is cloudy or contains particles. Check the dose display is set to “0”.



Preparing the medication

Wipe threaded tip with an alcohol wipe. Let dry and set aside on clean dry surface.



Preparing the medication

Take a single-use disposable needle provided in the Gonal-f RFF redi-ject carton. Hold the outer needle cap firmly in one hand and remove the peel tab. If the peel tab is damaged or loose, do not use it.



Preparing the medication



Press threaded tip of Gonal-f RFF redi-ject into the open end of the outer needle cap.

Twist the needle to the left, or counterclockwise until the needle is securely attached.

Keeping the needle pointing up, carefully pull off the outer needle cap by pulling upwards and set aside to use later.

Leave the green inner needle shield on the needle.



Preparing the medication



Small air bubbles do not need to be removed.

Keeping the needle pointing up, carefully pull off the green needle cap and dispose of it in sharps container.

Preparing the medication



New pen:

If you do not see a droplet of liquid on the tip of the needle when using a pen for the first time, turn the dose knob until the Dose information display reads “25”. With the needle pointing up, gently tap the reservoir so that any air bubbles rise to the top. Hold the pen with the needle pointing up. Slowly press the dose knob in all the way. One or more tiny drops of liquid will appear at the tip of the needle. Release the dose knob. Make sure that the Dose information display reads “0”.

Reusing pen:

You do not have to check for droplets of liquid at the tip of the needle.

Preparing the medication

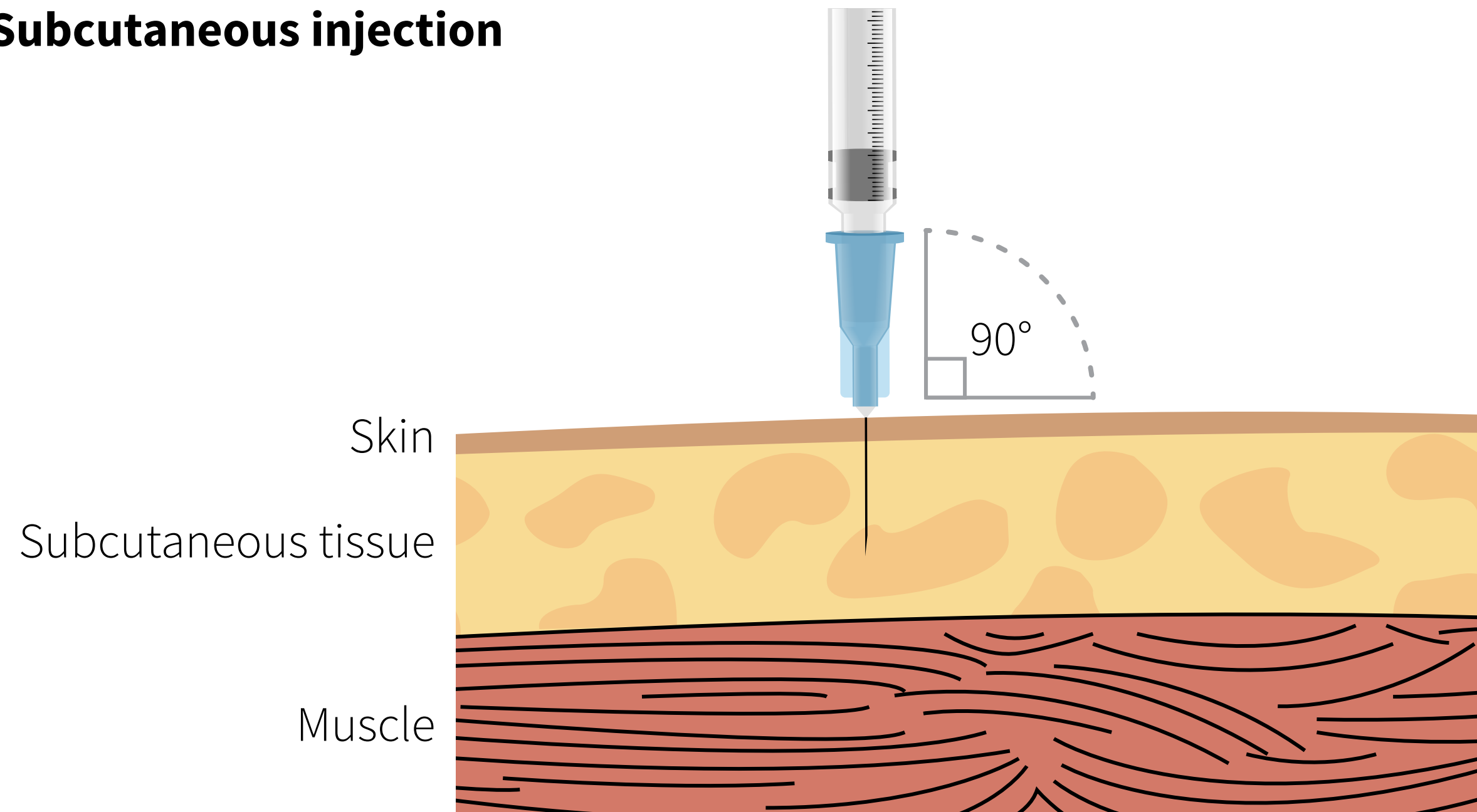


Call your healthcare provider, if you are unsure of the prescribed dose for today. To set the dose you will need for your injection, turn the dose knob to the right or in a clockwise direction so your prescribed dose appears in the dose display. For example, if your dose is 225 international units, then twist until “225” mark appears. Visually reconfirm again that you have set the correct dose on the dosage dial. If the dialed dose is incorrect, you may reset the dose by turning the dose knob back to the correct dose. You are ready to give your prescribed dose.

→ **Subcutaneous injection**

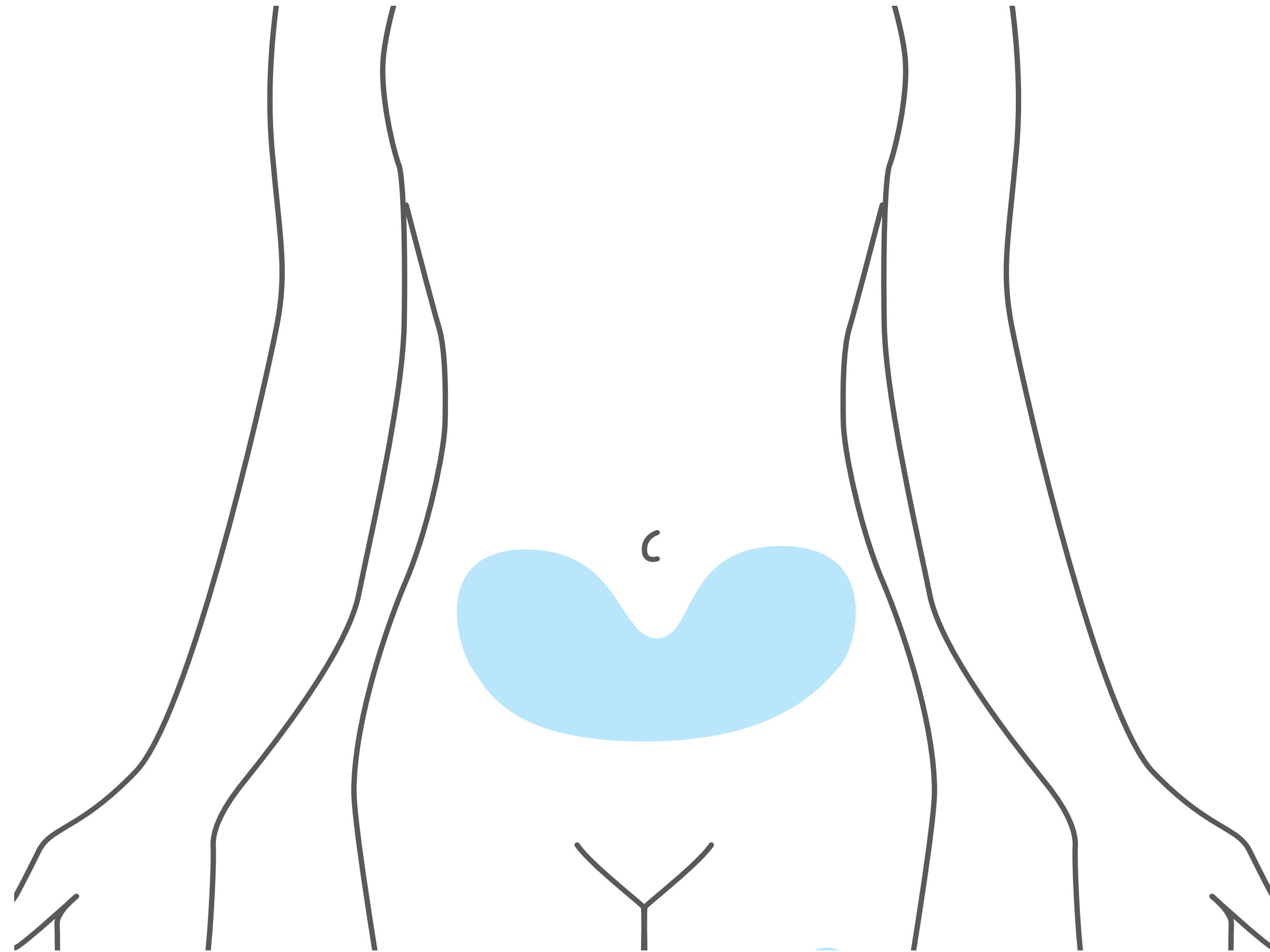
Subcutaneous injection

Subcutaneous injection



Gonal-f RFF redi-ject is to be administered subcutaneously. A subcutaneous injection involves depositing medication into the fatty tissue directly beneath the skin using a short injection needle. The needle is inserted at a 90 degree angle to the skin unless you were instructed otherwise.

Subcutaneous injection



The most convenient sites for subcutaneous injection is the abdomen alternating a different injection site each day. Always check with your physician or nurse for their injection site protocol. Avoid areas that are tender, hardened, swollen, scarred, itchy or burning.

Subcutaneous injection



Prior to giving the injection, clean the injection site with an alcohol wipe starting at the puncture site. Use firm pressure cleaning in a circular motion outward about 2 inches. Let the alcohol dry without fanning for a few seconds.

Subcutaneous injection



Hold the pen in your dominant hand between your thumb and fingers like you hold a pencil. Use the other hand to gently pinch a fold of skin. Insert the needle into the pinched skin area at a 90 degree angle to the skin, unless you were instructed otherwise, (using a quick dart like motion) to ensure that the medication is deposited into the fatty tissue.

Subcutaneous injection



After the needle is completely inserted into the skin, release the skin you are pinching. Press down and hold the dosage knob as far as it will go at a slow, steady rate to complete the injection. Keep the needle in the skin for at least five seconds to ensure that you inject the full dose. After injection is complete, keep the injection button pressed down while gently pulling the needle out of the skin. Apply pressure with a gauze pad, if needed.

NOTE: If you see a number other than “0” in the dose display window after giving your injection this means you did not have enough medication left in this pen to complete the dose. You will have to give yourself a second injection with a new pen in order to administer the entire dose as ordered by your physician. The number showing in the dose display is the dosage setting needed to dial in a new pen. (i.e. “75” is showing, set the dosage dial to “75”).

Subcutaneous injection



Once the medication has been administered, remove the used needle by placing the outer needle cap on a firm surface. Holding the pen with one hand, carefully insert the needle into the outer needle cap without using your other hand. Push firmly against a firm surface till you hear a click to ensure cap is firmly attached. The outer needle cap should cover the exposed needle.

Subcutaneous injection

Unscrew the capped needle from the pen by turning it to the right, or clockwise and dispose of the needle in the sharps container. You must remove the needle after each use and use a new needle for each injection with a pen device.



Subcutaneous injection



NOTE: After use, if there is medication left in the pen, replace pen cap and store pen per manufacturer medication instructions.

Medication storage:

- Patient may store new pens in refrigerator until product expiration date or at room temperature of 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F) for up to 3 months, whichever occurs first. Do not freeze. Protect from light.
- After first use, store pen in the refrigerator (2°C to 8°C [36°F to 46°F]) or at room temperature (20°C to 25°C [68°F to 77°F]); discard unused portion after 28 days.

Subcutaneous injection



Record the prescribed dose given in your treatment diary per manufacturer or your doctor's instructions.

Medication information

Gonal-f RFF (Follitropin alfa for injection)

This drug is usually given to women who want to get pregnant. They have healthy ovaries but have trouble producing eggs on their own. This drug helps the ovaries produce many eggs during fertility treatment.

Common side effects

For those taking this drug to make eggs, the most common side effects are headache, stomach pain, stomach bloating, bruising at the injection site, and nausea. Other common side effects include the following:

- breast pain
- vaginal bleeding
- sinus infection
- pain at the injection site
- migraine
- nausea
- gas
- diarrhea
- ovarian cyst
- back pain
- acne
- indigestion
- constipation
- mouth sores
- pelvic pain
- uterine bleeding
- injection site swelling
- pain
- fever

Medication information

- hot flashes
- discomfort
- frequent urination
- urinary tract infection
- viral infection

For those taking this drug to make many eggs for fertility treatment, headache, stomach pain, stomach bloating, bruising at the injection site, and nausea are the most common side effects. Other common side effects include the following:

- injection site pain
- ovarian hyperstimulation
- injection site inflammation
- injection site reaction

- unusual uterine or vaginal bleeding
- pain
- injection site swelling
- dizziness

Severe allergic reactions

Women who have used Gonal-f, Gonal-f RFF, or Gonal-f RFF redi-ject in the past may have a severe ‘allergic reaction right away when they use Gonal-f RFF redi-ject again. This severe allergic reaction may lead to death. If you have any of the following symptoms of a severe allergic reaction, stop using Gonal-f RFF redi-ject and go to the hospital right away:

- shortness of breath
- swelling of your face
- itchy, red bumps or rash on your skin (hives)

Medication information

Serious side effects

This drug can excite the ovaries too much. It can make them too large. This can cause swelling or pain in the abdomen or pelvic area. It might cause painful twisting of the ovaries. Tell your doctor right away if you have these symptoms.

This drug can cause ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS). This can fill the abdomen or chest with fluid. These problems can become fatal. Call your doctor right away if you have severe pelvic pain, nausea, vomiting, sudden weight gain or bloating.

This drug might cause severe problems in the blood vessels or lungs. This can raise the risk for blood clots and stroke. It might also raise the risk of heart attack.

This drug might cause bleeding in the abdomen. It might cause a pregnancy with more than one baby. Some patients taking this drug have had miscarriage. Others have had pregnancy outside of the uterus. Some have had early labor or fever after giving birth. Others have reported birth defects and ovarian tumors. However, the manufacturer states it is not clear if this drug is the cause of these conditions.

Speak with your doctor for information about the risks and benefits of available treatments.

Other information

Only doctors with experience treating infertility should prescribe this drug. Ask your doctor if this drug is right for you. Some patients should not take this drug.

Do not take this drug if you have any of the following conditions:

- are allergic to recombinant human FSH or any of the ingredients in Gonal-f RFF redi-ject
- have ovaries that no longer make eggs (primary ovarian failure)
- are pregnant or think you may be pregnant
- have uncontrolled thyroid or adrenal problems
- have a tumor in your female organs, including your ovaries, breast, or uterus that may get worse with high levels of estrogen

Medication information

- have a tumor in your brain, such as a tumor in your pituitary or hypothalamus
- have abnormal bleeding from your uterus or vagina
- have ovarian cysts or large ovaries, not due to polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding. It is not known if this drug passes into breastmilk. The usual dose of this drug is unique for each patient. It will depend on the reason for taking the drug. This drug is injected into the fatty tissue under the skin. Your doctor will teach you how to prepare and inject the drug.

Always follow the instructions provided by your doctor.

<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=b6d11c45-b502-478e-bb28-2ff596ea259c>
Accessed 01/06/22

Chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) for injection / Novarel (Chorionic gonadotropin for injection, USP) / Pregnyl (Chorionic gonadotropin for injection, USP)



- › Supplies needed
- › Preparing the medication
- › Intramuscular injection
- › HCG medication information
- › HCG prescribing information
- › Novarel medication information
- › Novarel prescribing information
- › Pregnyl medication information
- › Pregnyl prescribing information

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY YOUR PHYSICIAN

Supplies needed



You will need the following supplies to administer HCG 10,000 USP units, Novarel 5,000 USP units, or Pregnyl 10,000 USP units:

- Two vial package containing: HCG, Novarel or Pregnyl powder medication and 10 cc/mL vial of diluent
- 3 cc/mL syringe with one needle to draw up the medication and another to administer the injection
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gauze pads (optional)
- Sharps container

→ Preparing the medication

Preparing the medication



Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Select a location for your supplies with a surface that is clean and dry such as a bathroom or kitchen counter or table. Wipe the area with antibacterial cloth or put a clean paper towel down for the supplies to rest on.

Preparing the medication



Check to be sure that you have the correct medication. Inspect your medications. Contact your doctor or pharmacy if:

- your medication has expired.
- the medication is cloudy or discolored (usually yellow).
- particles are floating in the medication vial.

Preparing the medication

Flip off the plastic cap from the vials of medication and diluent and clean rubber stoppers with an alcohol wipe. Let dry.



Preparing the medication

Peel back the paper cover and remove the syringe. Some syringes come with the mixing needle already attached. Assure that the mixing needle is securely attached to the syringe by twisting it to the right, or clockwise onto the top of the syringe (needles that are attached by the manufacturer are often not firmly secured).



Preparing the medication

Remove the protective cap from the syringe, being careful not to touch the needle tip. Place the needle cap sideways on a clean dry flat surface.



Preparing the medication



Pull down on the syringe plunger to the black mark line that is the volume of diluent that is to be removed from the vial. This is normally 1 mL (1 cc), but be sure to follow your physician's instructions on the amount of diluent you use.

Preparing the medication



Place the vial of diluent on a table or counter top and puncture through the center of the rubber stopper with the needle.

Push the plunger to gently force the air from the syringe into the vial. This will enable you to easily withdraw the diluent.



Preparing the medication



Invert the vial of diluent (without removing or touching the needle). Pull back on the plunger to remove ONLY the prescribed amount (usually 1 mL/cc) of diluent. You do not have to use the whole vial of diluent. Assure that the tip of the needle is below the fluid level.

You may notice a large bubble of air at the top of the syringe. If so, without removing the needle from the vial, push the bubble of air back into the vial and pull back on the plunger to assure that you have a full 1 mL/cc of diluent in the syringe (be certain that the tip of the needle is in the fluid. This is only to assure that you have the appropriate amount of diluent needed for mixing.) You should be looking at the top, flat part of the black plunger, not the pointed peak.

Preparing the medication



Mixing

Remove the needle from the vial of diluent. Place the vial of medication powder on a firm surface, then gently and **SLOWLY** inject the diluent through the rubber stopper into the vial.

Preparing the medication



Without removing the needle, gently rotate the vial until you see the solution is clear. **DO NOT SHAKE VIAL.**

Preparing the medication



Invert the vial and syringe as one unit. Assure that the tip of the needle is below the level of liquid and pull back on the plunger to remove all of the medication. Remove all medication from the vial by keeping the needle tip below the fluid level.

Preparing the medication



Carefully recap the mixing needle by scooping up the cap from a flat surface with the needle and twist off to remove.

Preparing the medication

Dispose of the mixing needle in a sharps container.



Preparing the medication

Remove the injection needle from its sterile packaging and attach it to the syringe by twisting to the right, or clockwise.



Preparing the medication

Remove the needle cap by pulling upward, being careful not to touch the needle tip. Place the needle cap sideways on a clean dry flat surface.



Preparing the medication

At this point you may remove bubbles of air from the syringe by holding it with the needle facing upward and tapping on the syringe so that the air moves to the top of the syringe. Gently push the plunger until the fluid level has reached the top of the syringe. A small bubble of air in the syringe will not harm you.



Preparing the medication



Carefully recap the needle by scooping up the cap from a flat surface. Be very sure to not contaminate the needle. Do not touch the needle or allow the needle to touch any surface. The prescribed dose of HCG/Novarel/Pregnyl is ready for administration. **NOTE:** Your physician will determine which technique is most appropriate for you. Also confirm the injection site your physician recommends.

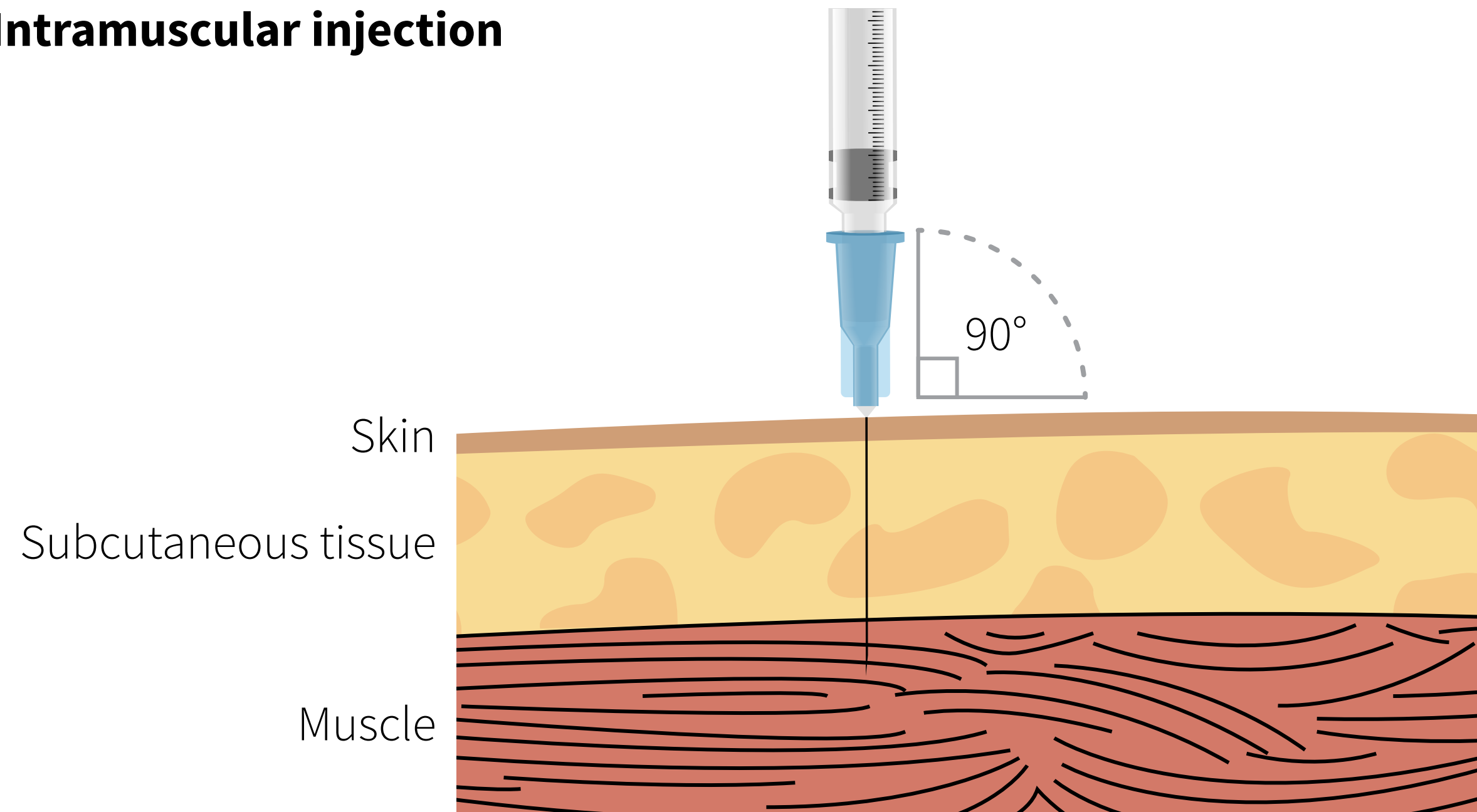
Medication storage: Store medication per manufacturer instructions.

→ **Intramuscular injection**

→ **Subcutaneous injection**

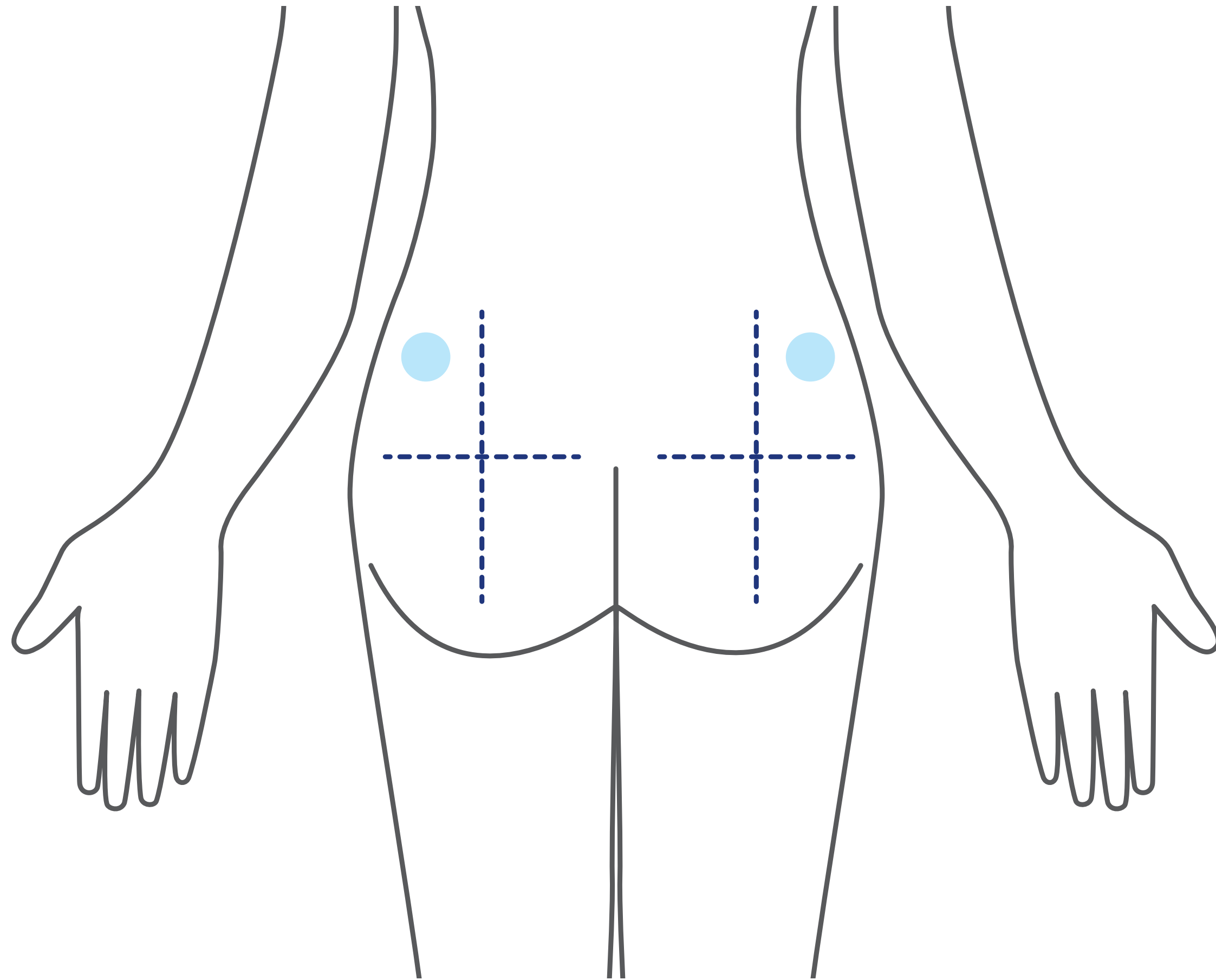
Intramuscular injection

Intramuscular injection



An intramuscular injection involves depositing medication into deep muscle tissue using a longer injection needle. The needle is inserted at a 90 degree angle to the skin.

Intramuscular injection



The most commonly used site for an intramuscular injection is the upper, outer quadrant of the buttock muscle near the hip. Always check with your physician or nurse for their injection site protocol.

Intramuscular injection



Prior to giving the injection, clean the injection site with an alcohol wipe starting at the puncture site. Use firm pressure cleaning in a circular motion outward about 2 inches. Let the alcohol dry without fanning for a few seconds. This photo shows the left upper quadrant of the buttocks.

Intramuscular injection



Remove the needle cover, being careful not to touch the needle. Hold syringe in your dominant hand between your thumb and finger as you would a pencil. With your free hand, gently pinch the skin at the injection site. You should be pinching one to two inches of skin.

Intramuscular injection



With your thumb and index finger, stretch the skin of the injection site slightly. Try relaxing the muscle you will be injecting as injecting into tense muscles will be more painful.

Insert the needle at a 90 degree angle to the skin with a smooth, dart-like motion to minimize discomfort. A slow, gentle push will cause more pain. The needle must be inserted so that the entire needle is through the skin. This will ensure that the medication is deposited into the muscle tissue.

Intramuscular injection



NOTE: The step of slowly “pulling back” on the plunger of the syringe to see if blood flows into the syringe is specific to how you were instructed to give yourself an injection. It is important that you understand and follow your medication’s specific instructions. Depending on what your doctor told you to do, please see sections a and b on the following step for more information.

Intramuscular injection



Sections A

If you were NOT instructed to pull back on the plunger, OR if you were instructed to do so and NO blood enters the syringe:

Depress the plunger slowly and steadily so solution is correctly injected. Remove the needle quickly, and apply pressure to the injection site with a gauze pad, if needed. Apply a bandage if necessary.

Intramuscular injection



Section B

If you were instructed to pull back on the plunger AND blood entered the syringe (this does not happen often), always follow the instructions provided by your physician, which may include:

Some physician/medication instructions may direct you to replace the needle only and proceed

OR

If you were instructed not give the injection:

1. Remove the needle from the injection site, and firmly press the injection site with a gauze pad for a few seconds, if needed. Apply a bandage if necessary.
2. Dispose of the needle and syringe as instructed.
3. Prepare another injection using previous instructions.
4. Use another injection site.

Intramuscular injection



Once the medication has been administered, dispose of the needle and syringe in the sharps container. Do not recap the needle.

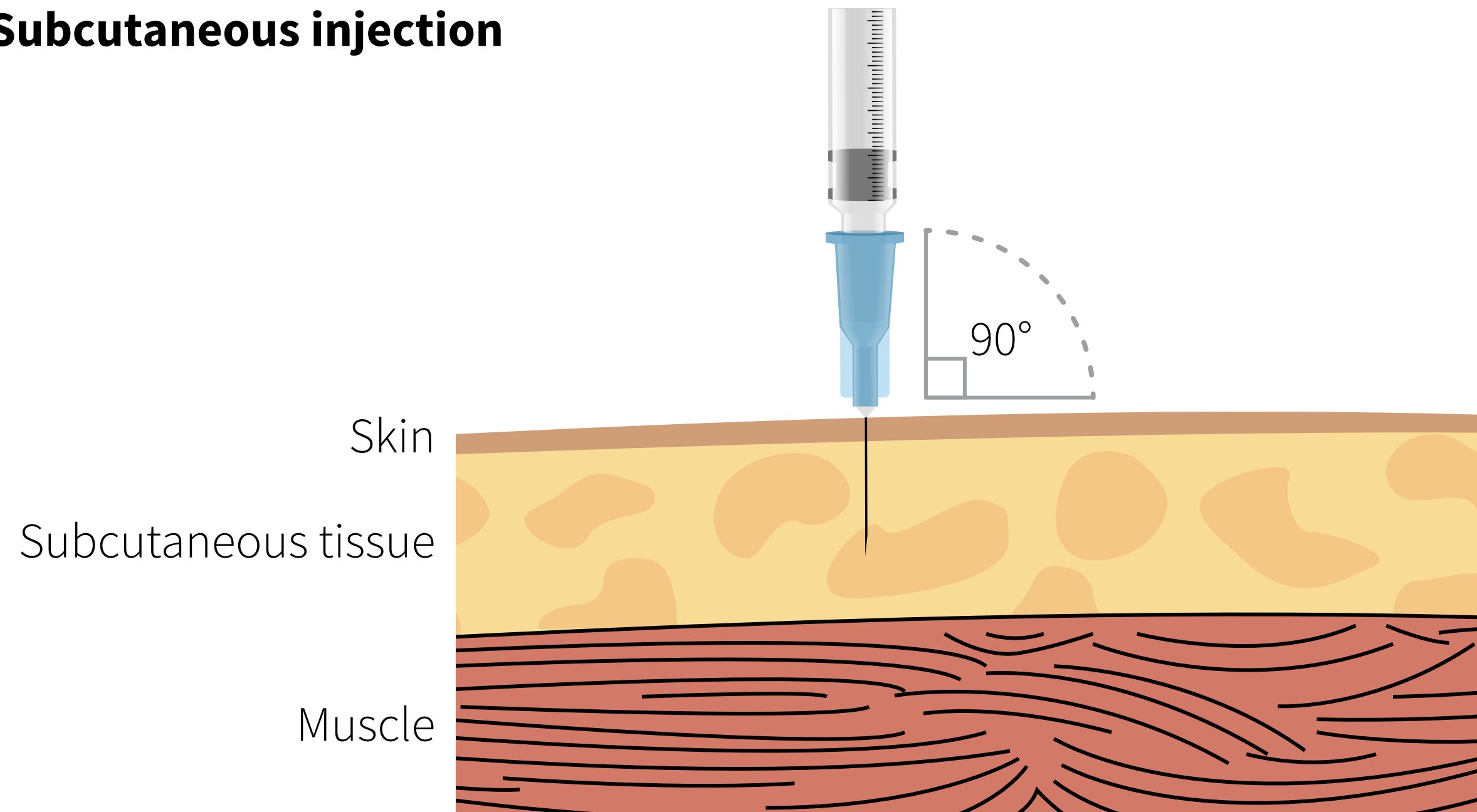
→ [HCG medication information](#)

→ [Novarel medication information](#)

→ [Pregnyl medication information](#)

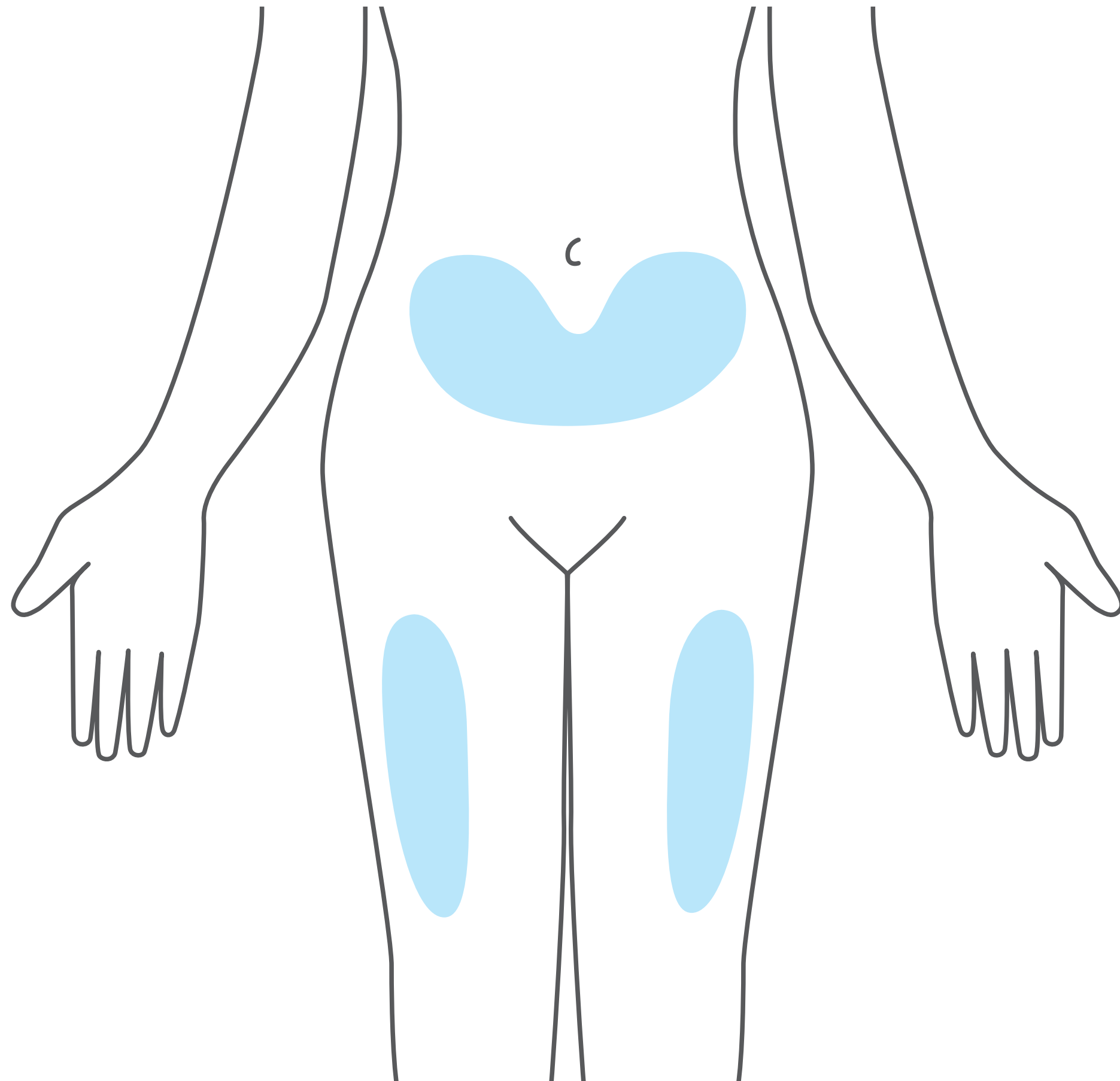
Subcutaneous injection

Subcutaneous injection



A subcutaneous injection involves depositing medication into the fatty tissue directly beneath the skin using a short injection needle. The needle is inserted at a 90 degree angle to the skin unless you were instructed otherwise.

Subcutaneous injection



Acceptable injection sites include lower abdomen or upper thigh. Always check with your physician or nurse for their injection site protocol. Avoid areas that are tender, hardened, swollen, scarred, itchy or burning.

Subcutaneous injection



Cleanse the site to be injected with an alcohol wipe, beginning at the intended puncture site and cleaning in a circular outward motion about two inches and let air dry.

Subcutaneous injection



Hold the syringe in your dominant hand between your thumb and fingers as you would a pencil. With your free hand, gently pinch the skin at the injection site. You should be pinching one to two inches of skin.

Subcutaneous injection



Insert the needle into the pinched skin area at a 90 degree angle to the skin, unless you were instructed otherwise, (using a quick dart like motion) to ensure that the medication is deposited into the fatty tissue.

Subcutaneous injection



After the needle is completely inserted into the skin, release the skin that you are pinching. Depress the plunger at a slow, steady rate until all the medication has been injected. Wait for five seconds before pulling the needle out of the skin. Apply pressure with a sterile gauze pad if needed.

Subcutaneous injection



Once the medication has been administered, dispose of the needle and syringe in the sharps container. Do not recap the needle.

→ [HCG medication information](#)

→ [Novarel medication information](#)

→ [Pregnyl medication information](#)

Medication information

Chorionic gonadotropin for injection, USP

This drug is usually given to women who want to get pregnant. They have healthy ovaries but have trouble producing eggs on their own. This drug helps the ovaries mature and release eggs. It is given after treatment with menotropins.

This drug is also given to men who make little or no sex hormones because of a pituitary gland problem. This drug is also used to treat undescended testes in young boys.

Common side effects

Headache, irritability, restlessness, depression, fatigue and swelling are common side effects of this drug. It is also common to have pain at the injection site.

This drug can cause puberty to begin too soon in young children. It can also cause males to grow large breasts.

Serious side effects

This drug can excite the ovaries too much. It can cause ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS). This can fill the abdomen or chest with fluid. These problems can become fatal. Call your doctor right away if you have severe pelvic pain, nausea, vomiting, sudden weight gain or bloating.

This drug might cause cysts on the ovaries to burst. This can cause bleeding in the lining of the abdomen.

This drug might cause a pregnancy with more than one baby. It might also cause blood clots. This drug might cause a severe allergic reaction for some patients.

Speak with your doctor for information about the risks and benefits of available treatments.

Medication information

Other information

Only doctors with experience treating infertility should prescribe this drug. Ask your doctor if this drug is right for you. Some patients should not take this drug.

Do not take this drug if you have any of the following conditions:

- early puberty
- prostate cancer or other cancer that might get worse with higher levels of male sex hormones
- allergy to human chorionic gonadotropin

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding. It is not known if this drug passes into breastmilk.

The usual dose of this drug is unique for each patient. It will depend on the reason for taking the drug.

This drug is injected into the muscle unless otherwise instructed by your doctor. Your doctor will teach you how to prepare and inject the drug.

Always follow the instructions provided by your doctor.

<http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=f93b2baa-03ac-4650-b35a-20b818d712d6>
Accessed 01/06/22

Medication information

Novarel (Chorionic gonadotropin for injection, USP)

This drug is usually given to women who want to get pregnant. They have healthy ovaries but have trouble developing eggs on their own. This drug helps the ovaries mature and release eggs. It is given after treatment with menotropins.

This drug is also given to men who make little or no sex hormones because of a pituitary gland problem. This drug is also used to treat undescended testes in young boys.

Common side effects

Common side effects for this drug are headache, irritability, restlessness, depression, fatigue and swelling. It is also common to have pain at the injection site.

This drug can cause puberty to begin too soon in young children. It can also cause males to grow large breasts.

Some patients have had allergic reactions to this drug.

Serious side effects

This drug can excite the ovaries too much. This can make the ovaries too large. It can also cause ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS). This can fill the abdomen or chest with fluid. These problems can become fatal. Call your doctor right away if you have severe pelvic pain, nausea, vomiting, sudden weight gain or bloating.

This drug might cause cysts on the ovaries to become too large. It might cause these cysts to burst. This can cause bleeding in the lining of the abdomen.

This drug might cause a pregnancy with more than one baby. It might also cause blood clots. This drug might also cause severe allergic reactions in some patients.

Men taking this drug might be at risk for tumors in the testes. However, the manufacturer states it is not clear if this drug is the cause.

Speak with your doctor for information about the risks and benefits of available treatments.

Medication information

Other information

Only doctors with experience treating infertility should prescribe this drug. Ask your doctor if this drug is right for you. Some patients should not take this drug.

Do not take this drug if you have any of the following conditions:

- early puberty
- prostate cancer or other cancer that might get worse with higher levels of male sex hormones
- allergy to human chorionic gonadotropin or any other ingredients in Novarel or similar drugs
- known or suspected pregnancy

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding. It is not known if this drug passes into breastmilk.

The usual dose of this drug is unique for each patient. It will depend on the reason for taking the drug.

This drug is injected into the muscle, unless otherwise instructed by your doctor. Your doctor will teach you how to prepare and inject the drug.

Always follow the instructions provided by your doctor.

<http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=ac6918ff-9dc3-40d9-8619-54b26e4bdfc8>
Accessed 01/06/22

Medication information

Pregnyl (Chorionic gonadotropin for injection, USP)

This drug is usually given to women who want to get pregnant. They have healthy ovaries but have trouble developing eggs on their own. This drug helps the ovaries mature and release eggs. It is given after treatment with menotropins.

This drug is also given to men who make little or no sex hormones because of a pituitary gland problem. This drug is also used to treat undescended testes in young boys.

Common side effects

Headache, irritability, restlessness, depression, fatigue and swelling are common side effects of this drug. It is also common to have pain at the injection site.

This drug can cause puberty to begin too soon in young children. It can also cause males to grow large breasts.

This drug might also cause severe allergic reactions.

Serious side effects

This drug can excite the ovaries too much. It can cause ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS). This can fill the abdomen or chest with fluid. These problems can become fatal. Call your doctor right away if you have severe pelvic pain, nausea, vomiting, sudden weight gain or bloating.

This drug might cause cysts on the ovaries to burst. This can cause bleeding in the lining of the abdomen. This drug might cause a pregnancy with more than one baby. It might also cause blood clots.

Speak with your doctor for information about the risks and benefits of available treatments.

Medication information

Other information

Only doctors with experience treating infertility should prescribe this drug. Ask your doctor if this drug is right for you. Some patients should not take this drug.

Do not take this drug if you have any of the following conditions:

- early puberty
- prostate cancer or other cancer that might get worse with higher levels of male sex hormones
- allergy to human chorionic gonadotropin or any other ingredients in Pregnyl or similar drugs

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding. It is not known if this drug passes into breastmilk.

The usual dose of this drug is unique for each patient. It will depend on the reason for taking the drug.

This drug is injected into the muscle, unless otherwise instructed by your doctor. Your doctor will teach you how to prepare and inject the drug.

Always follow the instructions provided by your doctor.

<http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=3e26b843-9c7a-4517-a1b6-9362aab0b86c>
Accessed 01/06/22

Leuprolide acetate injection

FOR SUBCUTANEOUS USE ONLY



- › Supplies needed
- › Preparing the medication
- › Subcutaneous injection
- › Medication information
- › Prescribing information

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY YOUR PHYSICIAN

Supplies needed



Leuprolide acetate injection 1 mg/0.2 mL comes in a premixed 2.8 mL vial intended for multiple doses. The package contains 14 syringes and 28 alcohol wipes.

Your physician may have ordered additional syringes for you.

You will need the following supplies in preparation for the administration of your medication:

- 2.8 mL vial of multi-dose leuprolide acetate injection 1 mg/0.2 mL
- 1/2 mL syringe with 28G x 1/2 inch attached needle (has orange cap)
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gauze pads (optional)
- Sharps container

→ **Preparing the medication**

Preparing the medication



Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Select a location for your supplies with a surface that is clean and dry such as a bathroom or kitchen counter or table. Wipe the area with antibacterial cloth or put a clean paper towel down for the supplies to rest on.

Preparing the medication



Check to be sure that you have the correct medication. Inspect your medications. Contact your doctor or pharmacy if:

- your medication has expired.
- the medication is cloudy or discolored (usually yellow).
- particles are floating in the medication vial.

Preparing the medication

Flip off the plastic cap from the vial of medication for the first use. Clean the rubber stopper with an alcohol wipe and let dry each time you use the medication.



Preparing the medication

Peel back the paper cover and remove the syringe.



Preparing the medication

Remove the protective cap from the syringe, being careful not to touch the needle tip. Place the needle cap sideways on a clean dry flat surface.



Preparing the medication

Pull the syringe plunger back to the unit mark your physician has instructed you to administer. For example 0.2 mL or 20 unit mark.



Preparing the medication



Insert the needle into the rubber stopper on the medication vial and push the plunger to gently force air into the vial. This will enable you to easily withdraw the medication.

Preparing the medication



Invert the vial of medication (without removing or touching the needle). Assure that the tip of the needle is below the fluid level. Pull back on the plunger to slightly more than the recommended dose. Without removing the needle from the vial, and hold the vial and needle up straight, gently tap the syringe so that any air bubbles rise to the top of the syringe. Push the bubbles of air back into the vial and pull back on the plunger to assure that you have the accurate dose of medication in the syringe.

Preparing the medication



Remove the needle from the vial. Recap the needle by scooping up the cap. Be sure not to contaminate the needle. Do not touch the needle or allow it to touch any surface.

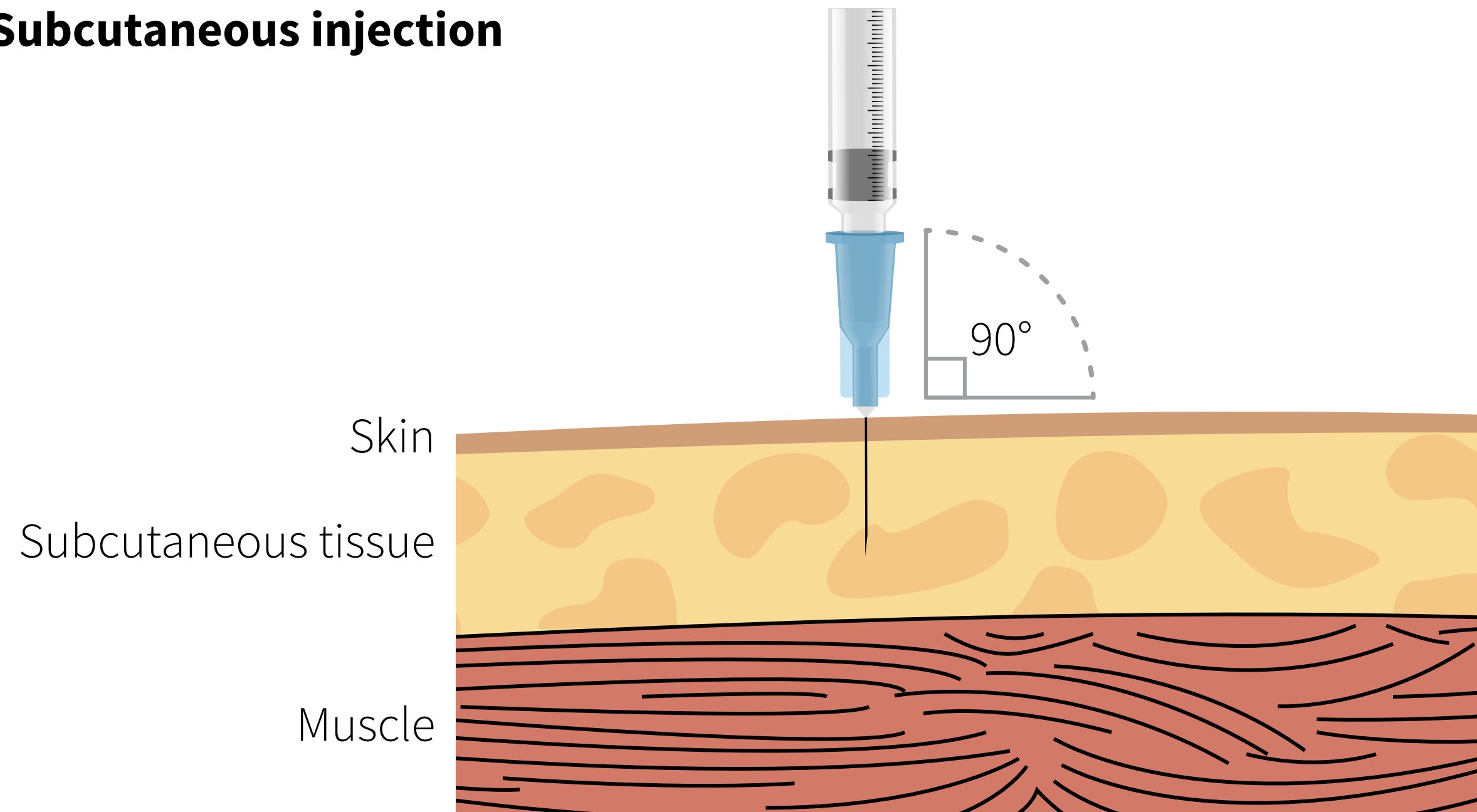
The prescribed dose of leuprolide acetate injection is ready for administration.

Medication storage: Store medication per manufacturer instructions.

→ **Subcutaneous injection**

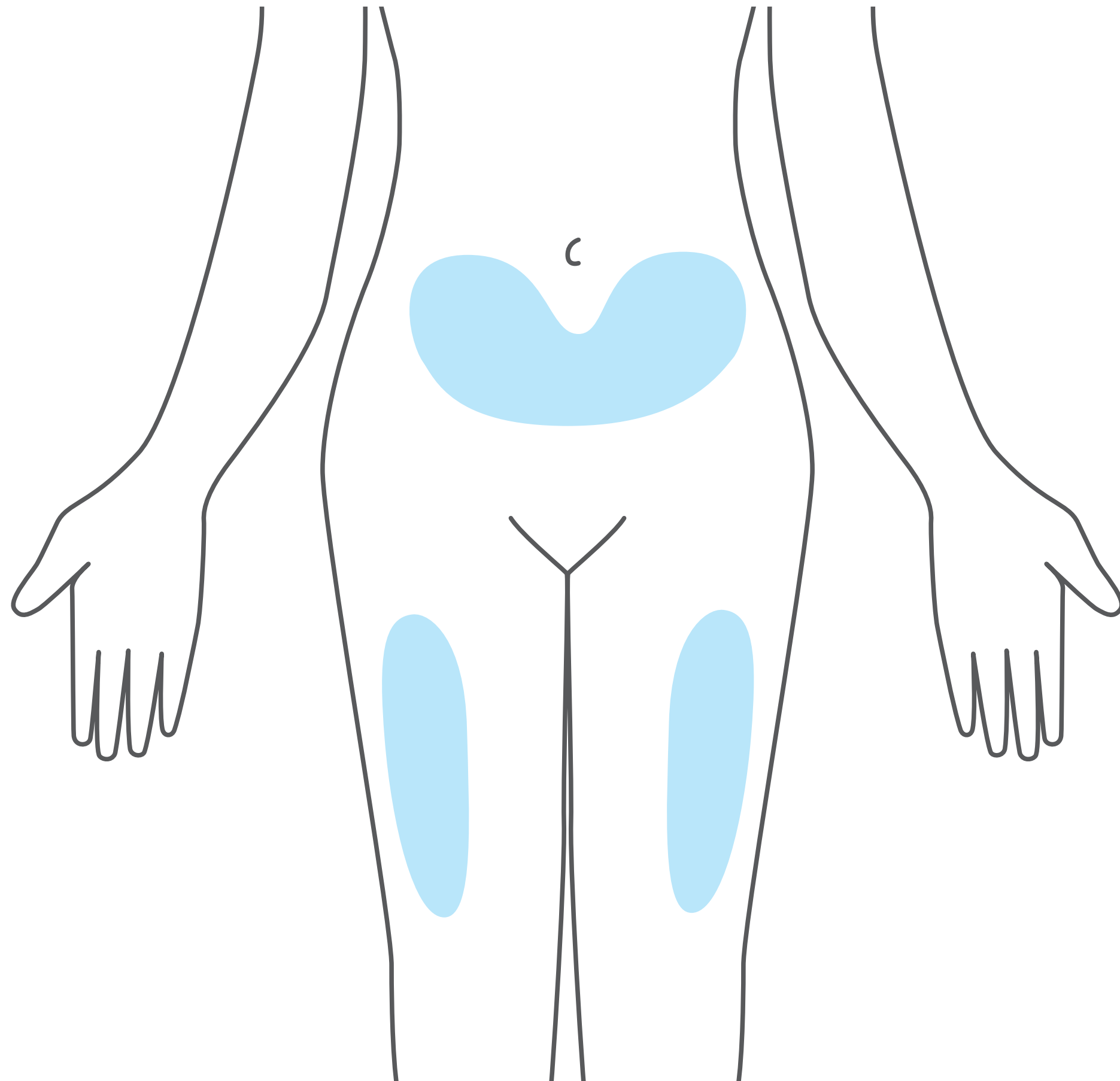
Subcutaneous injection

Subcutaneous injection



A subcutaneous injection involves depositing medication into the fatty tissue directly beneath the skin using a short injection needle. The needle is inserted at a 90 degree angle to the skin unless you were instructed otherwise.

Subcutaneous injection



The most convenient sites for subcutaneous injection are in the abdomen around the navel or upper thigh. Change the injection location each day to minimize discomfort. Always check with your physician or nurse for their injection site protocol. Avoid areas that are tender, hardened, swollen, scarred, itchy or burning.

Subcutaneous injection



Prior to giving the injection, clean the injection site with an alcohol wipe starting at the puncture site. Use firm pressure cleaning in a circular motion outward about 2 inches. Let the alcohol dry without fanning for a few seconds.

Subcutaneous injection



Hold syringe in your dominant hand between your thumb and finger as you would a pencil. With your free hand, gently pinch the skin at the injection site. You should be pinching one to two inches of skin.

Insert the needle into the pinched skin area at a 90 degree angle to the skin, unless you were instructed otherwise, (using a quick dart like motion) to ensure that the medication is deposited into the fatty tissue.

Subcutaneous injection



After the needle is completely inserted into the skin, release the skin that you are pinching. Depress the plunger at a slow, steady rate until all the medication has been injected. Wait for five seconds before pulling the needle out of the skin. Apply pressure with a sterile gauze pad if needed.

Subcutaneous injection

Once the medication has been administered, dispose of the needle and syringe in the sharps container. Do not recap the needle.



Medication information

Lleuprolide acetate injection

Common side effects

The most common side effects of this drug include hot flashes, lack of oxygen to the heart muscle and changes in heart activity, general pain and swelling. Other side effects include the following:

- feeling of weakness
- high blood pressure
- constipation
- decreased size of testicles
- growth of breasts
- breast tenderness or pain
- headache
- trouble sleeping or other sleep problems
- poor appetite
- frequent, urgent urination
- red blood cells in the urine
- nausea and vomiting
- low red blood cell count
- bone pain
- dizziness and lightheadedness
- sinus congestion
- rash
- impotence
- heart murmur
- muscle pain
- urinary tract infection
- blood clots or swollen veins

Medication information

- shortness of breath
- Less common side effects include the following:
- chest pain
- irregular heartbeat
- heart attack
- blood clot on the lung
- diarrhea
- trouble swallowing
- bleeding stomach
- upset stomach
- ulcer
- abnormal growths on the rectum
- loss of interest in sex
- enlarged thyroid
- joint pain
- anxiety
- blurred vision
- sluggish feeling
- memory problems
- mood swings
- nervousness
- prickly or numb feeling in the body
- nerve damage
- fainting
- changes in taste
- cough or creaking sound in the lungs

Medication information

- pneumonia
- stiff or scarred lung tissue
- skin or ear cancer
- dry skin
- bruising
- hair loss
- itching
- skin reactions
- darkening of skin
- skin lesions
- bladder spasms
- painful urination
- accidental urination
- pain in testicles
- blocked urinary tract
- depression
- diabetes
- fatigue
- fever or chills
- low blood glucose (sugar)
- increased levels pf blood urea nitrogen, calcium and creatinine
- infection or inflammation
- eye problems
- swelling at the base and side of the head
- Other reported side effects include the following:
- low resting heart rate

Medication information

- unusual sound from the heart
- premature contraction of the heart
- feeling of a fast heartbeat
- swollen blood vessels in the eyes
- enlarged aorta that bursts
- stroke
- fast heartbeat
- mini strokes
- gas
- dry mouth and throat
- hepatitis
- enlarged liver
- blood in stool
- abnormal passageway or redness in the rectum
- increased interest in sex
- thyroid nodules
- arthritis of the lower spine
- arthritis
- swelling in the eyes that causes blurred vision
- broken bones
- stiff or tender muscles
- scarring or masses in the pelvis
- spasms or cramps
- hearing sounds when there are none
- ringing in the ears
- decreased hearing

Medication information

- slow reflexes
- unusual feeling of well-being
- overactive reflexes
- loss of smell
- trouble with movement
- chest tightness
- quieter breathing
- coughing up blood
- sharp pain when breathing
- fluid in the lungs
- crackling or wheezing when breathing
- nasal inflammation
- strep throat
- wheezing or bronchitis
- pubic boils
- bruises
- hives
- skin growths
- moles
- shingles
- spider veins
- blisters on penis
- hernia in the groin
- swelling of penis
- urine left in the bladder after urination
- prostate pain

Medication information

- pus in the urine
- swollen abdomen
- swollen face
- burning feet
- flu
- eyelid growth
- low level of protein in the blood
- accidental injury
- swollen knee
- mass in the body
- pale skin
- yellow skin
- weakness
- injection site reaction
- liver problems
- low white blood cell count
- hair growth
- convulsions
- spinal fracture or paralysis
- hearing problems
- hard nodule in the throat
- weight gain
- increased uric acid
- swollen tendons
- breathing problems

Medication information

Serious side effects

If taken during pregnancy, this drug can harm an unborn child. Do not take this drug if you know or suspect you are pregnant.

Some patients have had severe allergic reactions to this drug.

This drug can weaken bones. It might also cause bleeding into the pituitary gland that needs treatment right away.

Speak with your doctor for information about the risks and benefits of available treatments.

Other information

Ask your doctor if this drug is right for you. Some patients should not take this drug.

Do not take this drug if you have any of the following conditions:

- allergy to gonadotropin-releasing hormone or any other ingredients in leuprolide acetate or similar drugs
- known or suspected pregnancy or potential to become pregnant
- current breastfeeding

This drug is injected into the fatty tissue under the skin. Your doctor will teach you how to prepare and inject the drug.

Always follow the instructions provided by your doctor.

<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=8bd72c1e-2751-4498-a346-bc5e3acbba0b>
<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=a3b01473-30c7-4945-bd60-2484221aaaaad>
Accessed 01/06/22

Low dose chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) for injection

FOR SUBCUTANEOUS USE ONLY



- › Supplies needed
- › Preparing the medication
- › Subcutaneous injection
- › Medication information
- › Prescribing information

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY YOUR PHYSICIAN

Supplies needed



Low dose HCG comes in a premixed vial (compounded by AllianceRx Walgreens Pharmacy) and is intended for multiple doses. Take as prescribed by your physician.

NOTE: Your physician has ordered syringes for you to administer the medication. Follow the directions for using this medicine provided by your physician.

You will need the following supplies in preparation for the administration of low dose HCG:

- Premixed vial of low dose HCG 0.5 mL or 1.0 mL insulin syringe with 29G x ½ inch needle attached (has orange cap)
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gauze pads (optional)
- Sharps container

→ [Preparing the medication](#)

Preparing the medication



Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Select a location for your supplies with a surface that is clean and dry such as a bathroom or kitchen counter or table. Wipe the area with antibacterial cloth or put a clean paper towel down for the supplies to rest on.

Preparing the medication



Remove the low dose HCG out of the refrigerator. It is recommended you allow the drug to reach room temperature before taking the injection. Injecting medication that is cold may cause discomfort at the injection site.

Check to be sure that you have the correct medication. Inspect your medications. Contact your doctor or pharmacy if:

- your medication has expired.
- the medication is cloudy or discolored (usually yellow).
- particles are floating in the medication vial.

Preparing the medication

Peel off the foil wrapper from the vial of medication for the first use. Clean the rubber stopper with an alcohol wipe and let dry each time you use the medication.



Preparing the medication

Peel back the paper cover and remove the syringe.



Preparing the medication



Remove the protective cap from the syringe, being careful not to touch the needle tip. Place the needle cap sideways on a clean dry flat surface. Pull the syringe plunger back to the unit mark your physician has instructed you to administer.



Preparing the medication



Insert the needle into the rubber stopper on the medication vial and push the plunger to gently force air into the vial. This will enable you to easily withdraw the medication.

Preparing the medication

Invert the vial of medication (without removing or touching the needle). Assure that the tip of the needle is below the fluid level. Pull back on the plunger to slightly more than the recommended dose. Without removing the needle from the vial, hold the vial and needle up straight. Slowly push the plunger to your prescribed dose to clear away any air bubbles. This will ensure accurate dosing in the syringe.



Preparing the medication



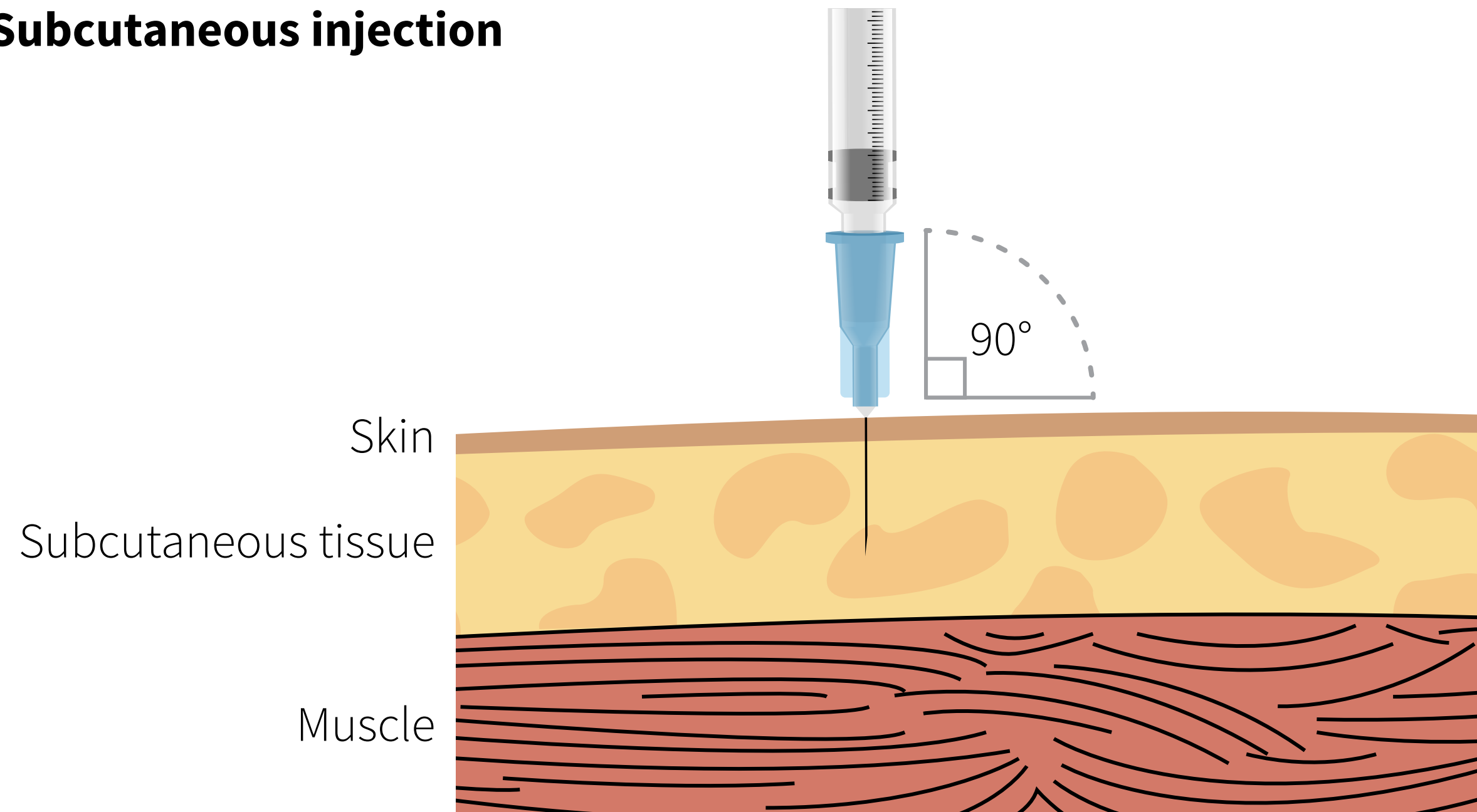
Remove the needle from the vial. Recap the needle by scooping up the cap. Be sure not to contaminate the needle. Do not touch the needle or allow it to touch any surface. The prescribed dose of low dose HCG is ready for administration. Refrigerate the unused portion of medication between injections.

Medication storage: Store medication per manufacturer and pharmacy instructions.

→ **Subcutaneous injection**

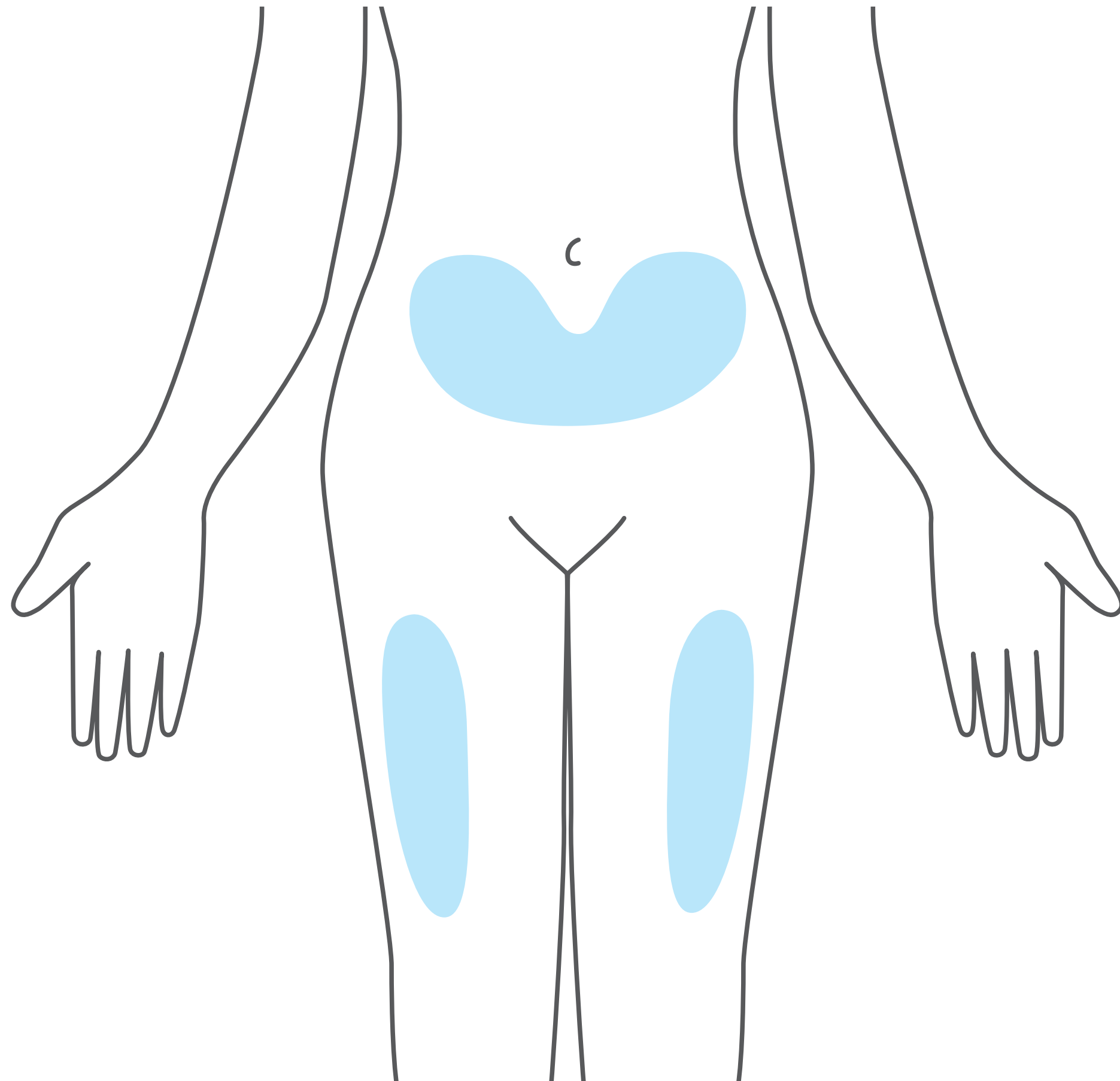
Subcutaneous injection

Subcutaneous injection



A subcutaneous injection involves depositing medication into the fatty tissue directly beneath the skin using a short injection needle. The needle is inserted at a 90 degree angle to the skin unless you were instructed otherwise.

Subcutaneous injection



The most convenient sites for subcutaneous injection are in the abdomen around the navel or upper thigh. Change the injection location each day to minimize discomfort. Always check with your physician or nurse for their injection site protocol. Avoid areas that are tender, hardened, swollen, scarred, itchy or burning.

Subcutaneous injection



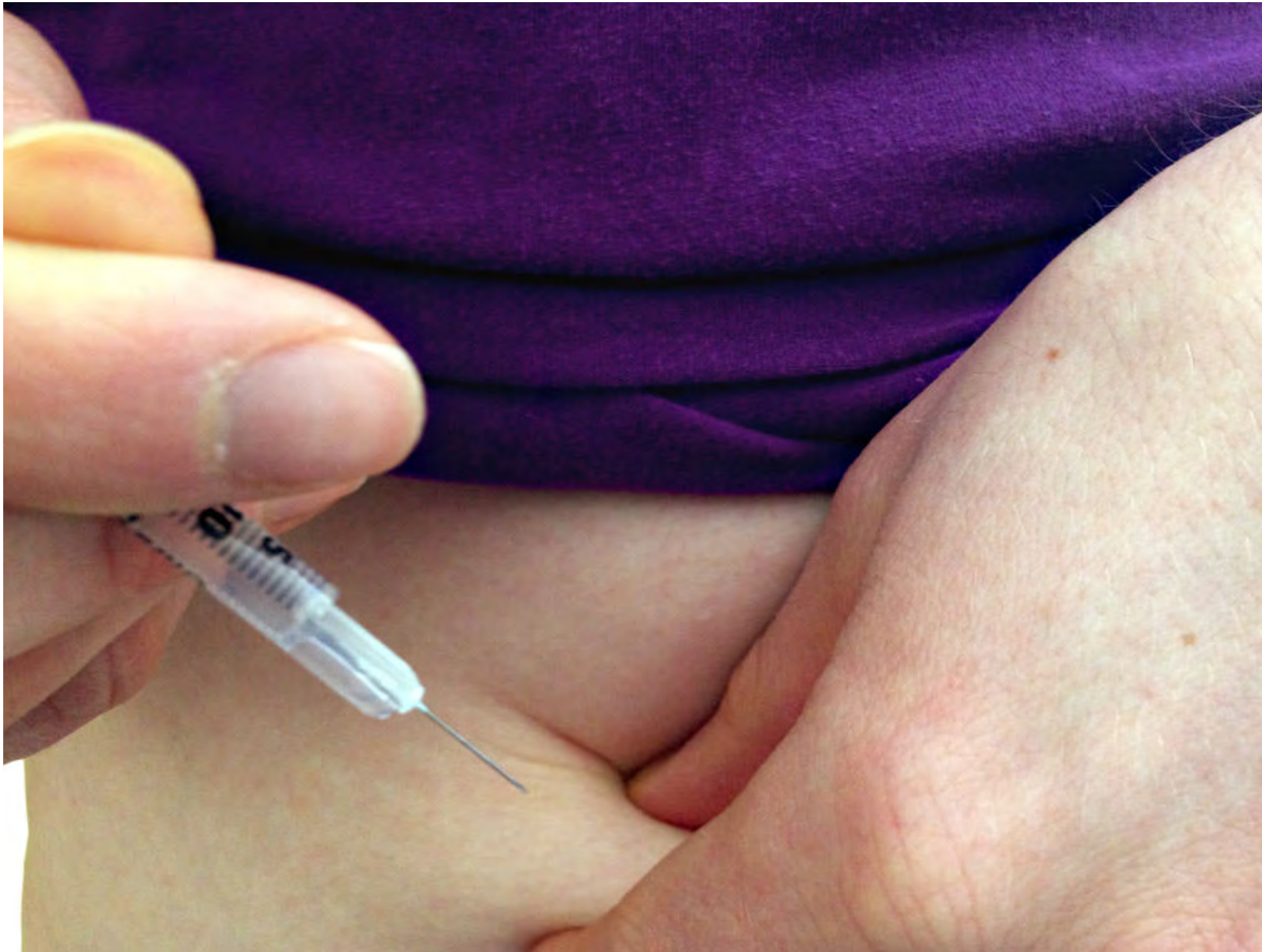
Prior to giving the injection, clean the injection site with an alcohol wipe starting at the puncture site. Use firm pressure cleaning in a circular motion outward about 2 inches. Let the alcohol dry without fanning for a few seconds.

Subcutaneous injection



Hold syringe in your dominant hand between your thumb and finger as you would a pencil. With your free hand, gently pinch the skin at the injection site. You should be pinching one to two inches of skin.

Subcutaneous injection



Insert the needle into the pinched skin area at a 90 degree angle to the skin, unless you were instructed otherwise, (using a quick dart like motion) to ensure that the medication is deposited into the fatty tissue.

Subcutaneous injection



After the needle is completely inserted into the skin, release the skin that you are pinching. Depress the plunger at a slow, steady rate until all the medication has been injected. Wait for five seconds before pulling the needle out of the skin. Apply pressure with a sterile gauze pad if needed.

Subcutaneous injection



Once the medication has been administered, dispose of the needle and syringe in the sharps container. Do not recap the needle.

Medication information

Chorionic gonadotropin (Choriogonadotropin alfa) kit

This drug is usually given to women who want to get pregnant. They have healthy ovaries but have trouble producing eggs on their own. This drug helps the ovaries mature and release eggs. It is given after treatment with menotropins.

This drug is also given to men who make little or no sex hormones because of a pituitary gland problem. This drug is also used to treat undescended testes in young boys.

Common side effects

Headache, irritability, restlessness, depression, fatigue and swelling are common side effects of this drug. It is also common to have pain at the injection site.

This drug can cause puberty to begin too soon in young children. It can also cause males to grow large breasts.

Serious side effects

This drug can excite the ovaries too much. It can cause ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS). This can fill the abdomen or chest with fluid. These problems can become fatal. Call your doctor right away if you have severe pelvic pain, nausea, vomiting, sudden weight gain or bloating.

This drug might cause cysts on the ovaries to burst. This can cause bleeding in the lining of the abdomen.

This drug might cause a pregnancy with more than one baby. It might also cause blood clots. This drug might cause a severe allergic reaction for some patients.

Speak with your doctor for information about the risks and benefits of available treatments.

Medication information

Other information

Only doctors with experience treating infertility should prescribe this drug. Ask your doctor if this drug is right for you. Some patients should not take this drug.

Do not take this drug if you have any of the following conditions:

- early puberty
- prostate cancer or other cancer that might get worse with higher levels of male sex hormones
- allergy to human chorionic gonadotropin

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding. It is not known if this drug passes into breastmilk.

The usual dose of this drug is unique for each patient. It will depend on the reason for taking the drug.

This drug is injected into the fatty tissue under the skin. Your doctor will teach you how to prepare and inject the drug.

Always follow the instructions provided by your doctor.

<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=f93b2baa-03ac-4650-b35a-20b818d712d6>
Accessed 01/06/22

Menopur (Menotropins for injection, USP)

FOR SUBCUTANEOUS USE ONLY



- › Supplies needed
- › Preparing the medication
- › Subcutaneous injection
- › Medication information
- › Prescribing information

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY YOUR PHYSICIAN

Supplies needed



You will need the following supplies in preparation for the administration of Menopur:

- Menopur 75 international units (You may require multiple vials of medication depending on the dose prescribed by your physician)
- Sodium chloride 0.9% 2 mL vial sterile diluent (the diluent is provided with the Menopur medication). You will only need one vial of the diluent for each injection even if your physician has ordered multiple vials of medication
- Sterile 3 cc/mL syringe
- Prescribed needle for administering the injection
- Q-Cap vial adapter packaged with your medication (for exclusive use with Ferring fertility products)
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gauze pads (optional)
- Sharps container

→ **Preparing the medication**

Preparing the medication



Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Select a location for your supplies with a surface that is clean and dry such as a bathroom or kitchen counter or table. Wipe the area with antibacterial cloth or put a clean paper towel down for the supplies to rest on.

Preparing the medication

If you have stored Menopur in the refrigerator, it is recommended you allow the drug to reach room temperature before taking your injection. Injecting medication that is cold may cause discomfort at the injection site.



Preparing the medication



Inspect your medications. Check to be sure that you have the correct medication as well as the expiration date on each vial. Check the vial(s) of Menopur to make sure there is powder or a pellet in each vial. Next, check that the liquid solution (diluent) is clear. Do not use if it contains any particles. If this happens, contact your doctor or pharmacy if there are any problems with your medications.

Preparing the medication

Flip off the plastic cap from the vials of Menopur medication and diluent and clean rubber stoppers with an alcohol wipe. Let dry.



Preparing the medication

Peel back the paper cover from the Q·Cap. Do not take the Q·Cap out of the blister pack at this time, and do not touch the spike or connector ends of the Q·Cap.



Preparing the medication



Hold the sides of the Q-Cap blister pack, turn the blister pack over, and place it on top of the vial while holding the sodium chloride in the other hand push the Q-Cap straight down in the rubber stopper of the vial until the spike pierces through the top of the vial and snaps into place.

Preparing the medication

Peel back the paper cover and remove the syringe. If there is a capped needle on the syringe, remove the needle by twisting it to the left, or counterclockwise. Be careful not to touch the tip of the syringe.



Preparing the medication



Pull down on the syringe plunger filling syringe with air equal to the volume of diluent that is to be removed from the vial. This is normally 1 mL (1 cc), but be sure to follow your physician's instructions on the amount of diluent you use.

Preparing the medication



Place the tip of the syringe into the connector end of the Q-Cap and twist the syringe clockwise until it is tight. Be careful not to overtighten the syringe or touch syringe plunger during this step.



Preparing the medication

Push the syringe plunger to gently force the air from the syringe into the vial. This will enable you to easily withdraw the diluent.



Preparing the medication



Keeping the syringe and Q·Cap together, turn the vial of diluent upside down. Pull back on the plunger to remove the desired amount of diluent (typically 1mL), but always follow your healthcare provider's instructions. Remove the vial of diluent from the Q·Cap/syringe and discard.

Preparing the medication



Mixing

While holding the first vial of Menopur powder on a firm surface, puncture the rubber stopper with the spiked end of the Q-Cap by pushing down over the vial (as shown). Gently and **SLOWLY** inject the diluent into the vial.

Preparing the medication



Gently rotate the vial until you see the solution is clear. **DO NOT SHAKE.**

Preparing the medication



As soon as medication powder is dissolved, turn the vial and syringe upside down as one unit. Pull back on the plunger to remove all of the medication into the syringe. Remove empty vial and discard.

Preparing the medication



If mixing multiple vials of medication, prepare the first vial of Menopur with sterile diluent, then use the liquid medication in the syringe to mix up to 5 more vials of medicine.¹ As an example, you would take the second vial of medication powder and inject the previously mixed liquid medication into the second vial of powder and continue for as many vials as your physician directed.

Preparing the medication



When you have finished mixing the last vial necessary for your injection and have drawn up all the medication in your syringe, twist Q-Cap to the left, or counterclockwise to remove and dispose of the Q-Cap in a sharps container. Do not touch the end of the syringe.

Preparing the medication

Place the syringe with medication on a clean dry surface sideways being careful not to touch the tip of the syringe. Remove the injection needle from its sterile packaging and attach it to the syringe by twisting it to the right, or clockwise.



Preparing the medication



Remove the protective cap from the syringe, being careful not to touch the needle tip. Place the needle cap sideways on a clean dry flat surface. At this point you may remove bubbles of air from the syringe by holding it with the needle facing upward and tapping on the syringe so that the air moves to the top of the syringe. Gently push the syringe plunger until the fluid level has reached the top of the syringe (this will push all the air is out of the syringe) and a small drop of solution forms at the tip of the needle. A small bubble of air in the syringe will not harm you. Tap the syringe to remove the drop of solution at the tip of the needle.



Preparing the medication



Carefully recap the needle by scooping up the cap. Be very sure to not contaminate the needle. Do not touch the needle or allow it to touch any surface.

The prescribed dose of Menopur is ready for administration.

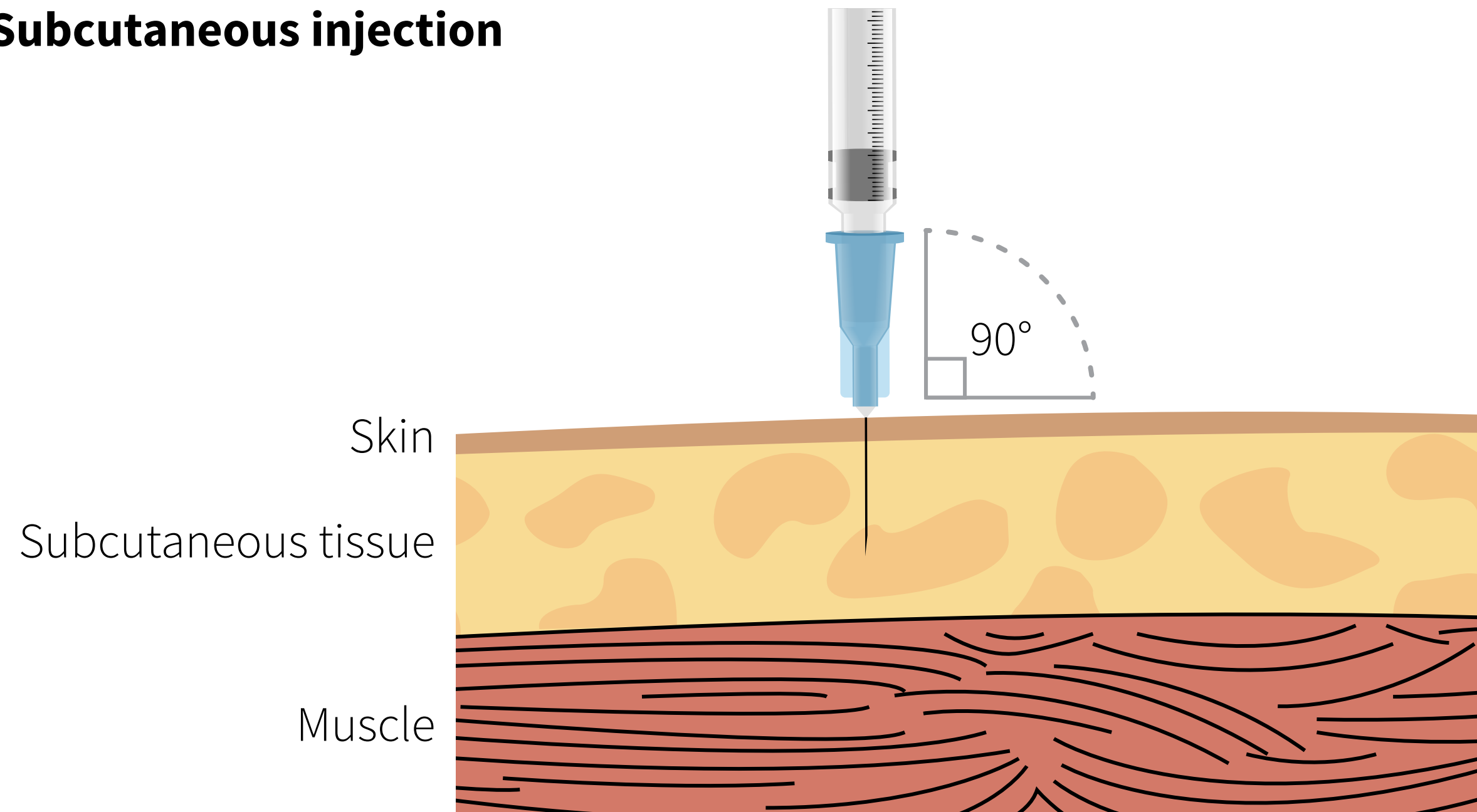
NOTE: Use Menopur right away after mixing with sterile diluent.

Menopur is administered by subcutaneous injection only. Your physician will determine which technique is most appropriate for you. Also confirm the injection site your physician recommends.

→ **Subcutaneous injection**

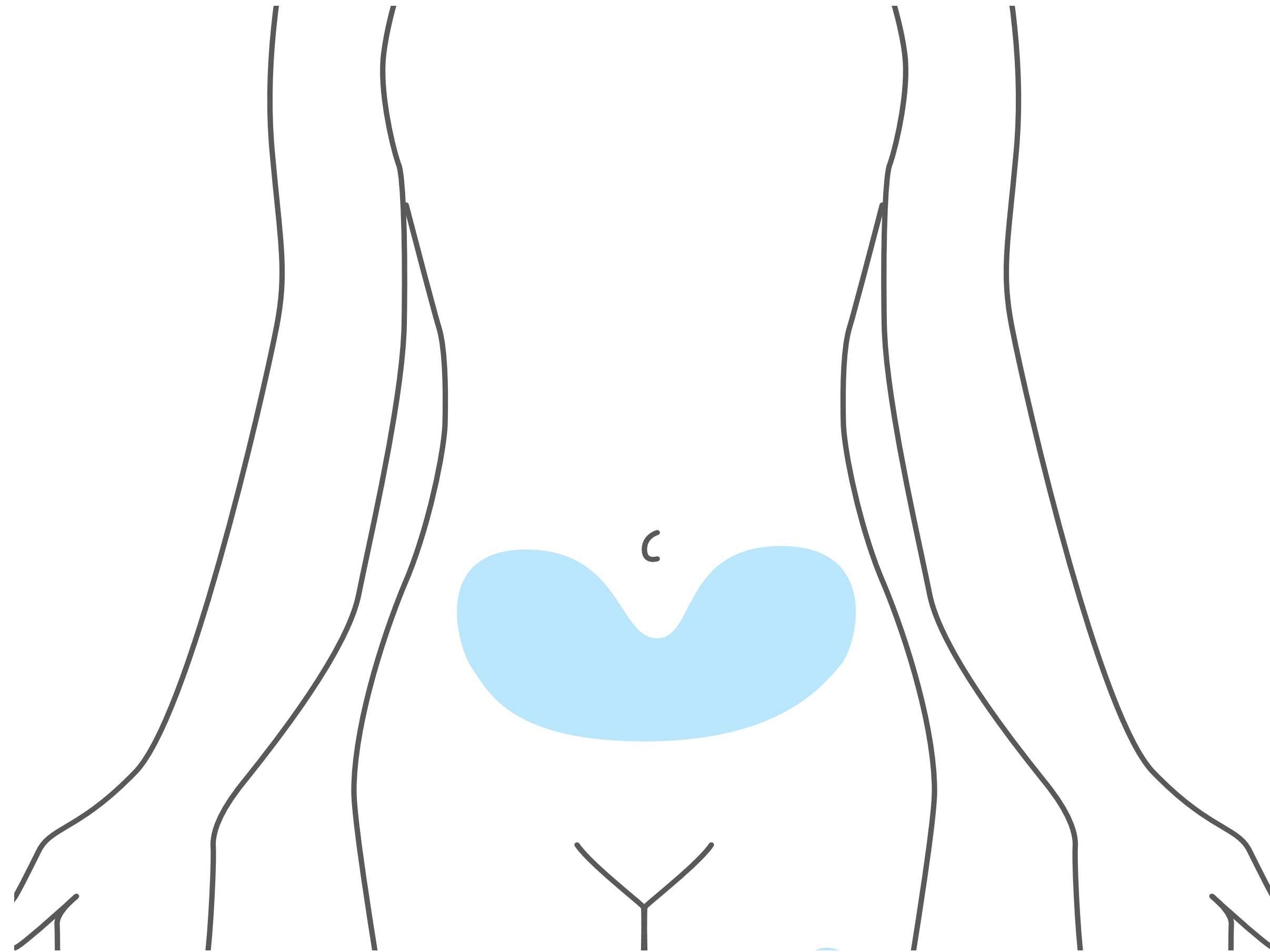
Subcutaneous injection

Subcutaneous injection



A subcutaneous injection involves depositing medication into the fatty tissue directly beneath the skin using a short injection needle. The needle is inserted at a 90 degree angle to the skin unless you were instructed otherwise.

Subcutaneous injection



The recommended injection sites for Menopur are either side of the lower abdomen alternating sides. For each injection, select a different spot. Always check with your physician or nurse for their injection site protocol. Avoid areas that are tender, hardened, swollen, scarred, itchy or burning.

Subcutaneous injection



Prior to giving the injection, clean the injection site with an alcohol wipe starting at the puncture site. Use firm pressure cleaning in a circular motion outward about 2 inches. Let the alcohol dry without fanning for a few seconds.

Subcutaneous injection



Hold syringe in your dominant hand between your thumb and finger as you would a pencil. With your free hand, gently pinch the skin at the injection site. You should be pinching one to two inches of skin.

Subcutaneous injection



Insert the needle into the skin of the pinched area at a 90 degree angle to the skin, unless you were instructed otherwise, (using a quick dart like motion) to ensure that the medication is deposited into the fatty tissue.

Subcutaneous injection



After the needle is completely inserted into the skin, release the skin that you are pinching. Depress the plunger at a slow, steady rate until all the medication has been injected. Wait for five seconds before pulling the needle out of the skin. Apply pressure with a sterile gauze pad if needed.

Subcutaneous injection



Once the medication has been administered, dispose of the needle and syringe in the sharps container. Do not recap the needle.

Medication information

Menopur (Menotropins for injection)

This drug is usually given to women who want to get pregnant. They have healthy ovaries but have trouble producing eggs on their own. This drug helps the ovaries produce many eggs during fertility treatment.

Common side effects

The most common side effects of this drug include the following:

- stomach pain
- headache
- ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS)
- injection site pain and reaction
- stomach cramps
- swollen stomach
- injection site inflammation
- nausea

A less common side effect is swelling of the veins caused by a blood clot.

Some patients have also had the following side effects:

- vomiting
- stomach discomfort
- fatigue
- dizziness
- pelvic pain
- ovarian cysts
- breast problems
- acne
- rash
- hot flashes

Medication information

Serious side effects

This drug can excite the ovaries too much. It can make them too large. This can cause swelling or pain in the abdomen or pelvic area. Tell your doctor right away if you have these symptoms.

This drug can cause OHSS. This can fill the abdomen or chest with fluid. These problems can become fatal. Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following symptoms:

- severe pelvic pain
- nausea
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- sudden weight gain
- swollen stomach
- diarrhea

- trouble breathing
- less urine or trouble urinating

This drug might cause severe problems in the blood vessels or lungs. This can raise the risk for blood clots, stroke and breathing problems.

This drug might raise the risk for painful twisting of the ovaries. This drug might cause a pregnancy with more than one baby. Those taking this drug might be at risk for a pregnancy outside of the uterus.

Some might also have a higher risk for miscarriage, birth defects or ovarian tumors. However, the manufacturer states it is not clear if this drug is the cause of these conditions.

Speak with your doctor for information about the risks and benefits of available treatments.

Medication information

Other information

Only doctors with experience treating infertility should prescribe this drug. Ask your doctor if this drug is right for you. Some patients should not take this drug.

Do not take this drug if you have any of the following conditions:

- allergy to menotropins or any other ingredients of Menopur or similar drugs
- high follicle-stimulating hormone level or ovarian failure
- known or suspected pregnancy
- thyroid, adrenal or pituitary gland problems
- sex hormone-dependent tumors in or around the sex organs
- pituitary or hypothalamic tumor
- unusual uterine bleeding
- ovarian cysts or enlarged ovaries not caused by polycystic ovary syndrome

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding. It is not known if this drug passes into breastmilk.

The usual dose of this drug is unique for each patient. It may or may not be given along with other drugs.

This drug is injected into the fatty tissue under the skin. Your doctor will teach you how to prepare and inject the drug.

Always follow the instructions provided by your doctor.

<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=22c8db95-c3db-1770-8086-31356fbabe35>
Accessed 01/06/22

Microdose leuprolide acetate injection

FOR SUBCUTANEOUS USE ONLY



- › Supplies needed
- › Preparing the medication
- › Subcutaneous injection
- › Medication information
- › Prescribing information

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY YOUR PHYSICIAN

Supplies needed



Microdose leuprolide acetate comes in a premixed vial (compounded by AllianceRx Walgreens Pharmacy) and is intended for multiple doses. Take as prescribed by your physician.

NOTE: Your physician has ordered syringes for you to administer the medication. Follow the directions for using this medicine provided by your physician.

You will need the following supplies in preparation for the administration of your medication:

- Premixed 10mL multi-dose vial of microdose leuprolide acetate
- Insulin syringe with 29G x ½ inch needle attached (has orange cap)
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gauze pads (optional)
- Sharps container

→ [Preparing the medication](#)

Preparing the medication



Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Select a location for your supplies with a surface that is clean and dry such as a bathroom or kitchen counter or table. Wipe the area with antibacterial cloth or put a clean paper towel down for the supplies to rest on.

Preparing the medication



Remove the microdose leuprolide acetate out of the refrigerator. It is recommended you allow the drug to reach room temperature before taking the injection. Injecting medication that is cold may cause discomfort at the injection site.

Preparing the medication



Check to be sure that you have the correct medication. Inspect your medications. Contact your doctor or pharmacy if:

- your medication has expired.
- the medication is cloudy or discolored (usually yellow).
- particles are floating in the medication vial.

Preparing the medication

Peel off the foil wrapper from the vial of medication for the first use. Clean the rubber stopper with an alcohol wipe and let dry each time you use the medication.



Preparing the medication

Peel back the paper cover and remove the syringe.



Preparing the medication

Remove the protective cap from the syringe, being careful not to touch the needle tip. Place the needle cap sideways on a clean dry flat surface.



Preparing the medication

Pull the syringe plunger back to the unit mark your physician has instructed you to administer.



Preparing the medication



Insert the needle into the rubber stopper on the medication vial and push the plunger to gently force air into the vial. This will enable you to easily withdraw the medication.

Preparing the medication



Invert the vial of medication (without removing or touching the needle). Assure that the tip of the needle is below the fluid level. Pull back on the plunger to slightly more than the recommended dose. Without removing the needle from the vial, hold the vial and needle up straight. Slowly push the plunger to your prescribed dose to clear away any air bubbles. This will ensure accurate dosing in the syringe.

Preparing the medication



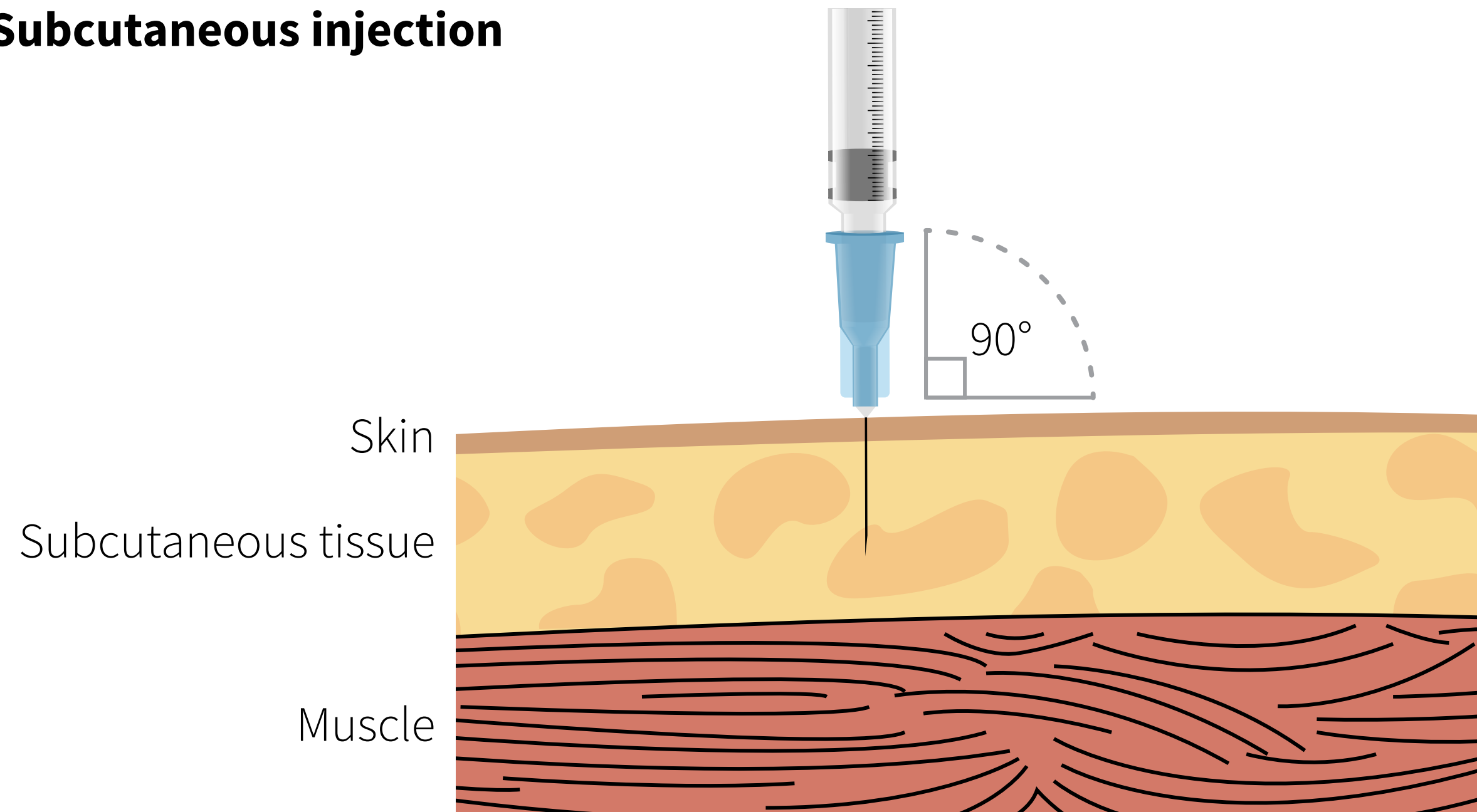
Remove the needle from the vial. Recap the needle by scooping up the cap. Be sure not to contaminate the needle. Do not touch the needle or allow it to touch any surface. The prescribed dose of microdose leuprolide acetate is ready for administration. Refrigerate the unused portion of medication between injections.

Medication storage: Store medication per manufacturer and pharmacy instructions.

→ **Subcutaneous injection**

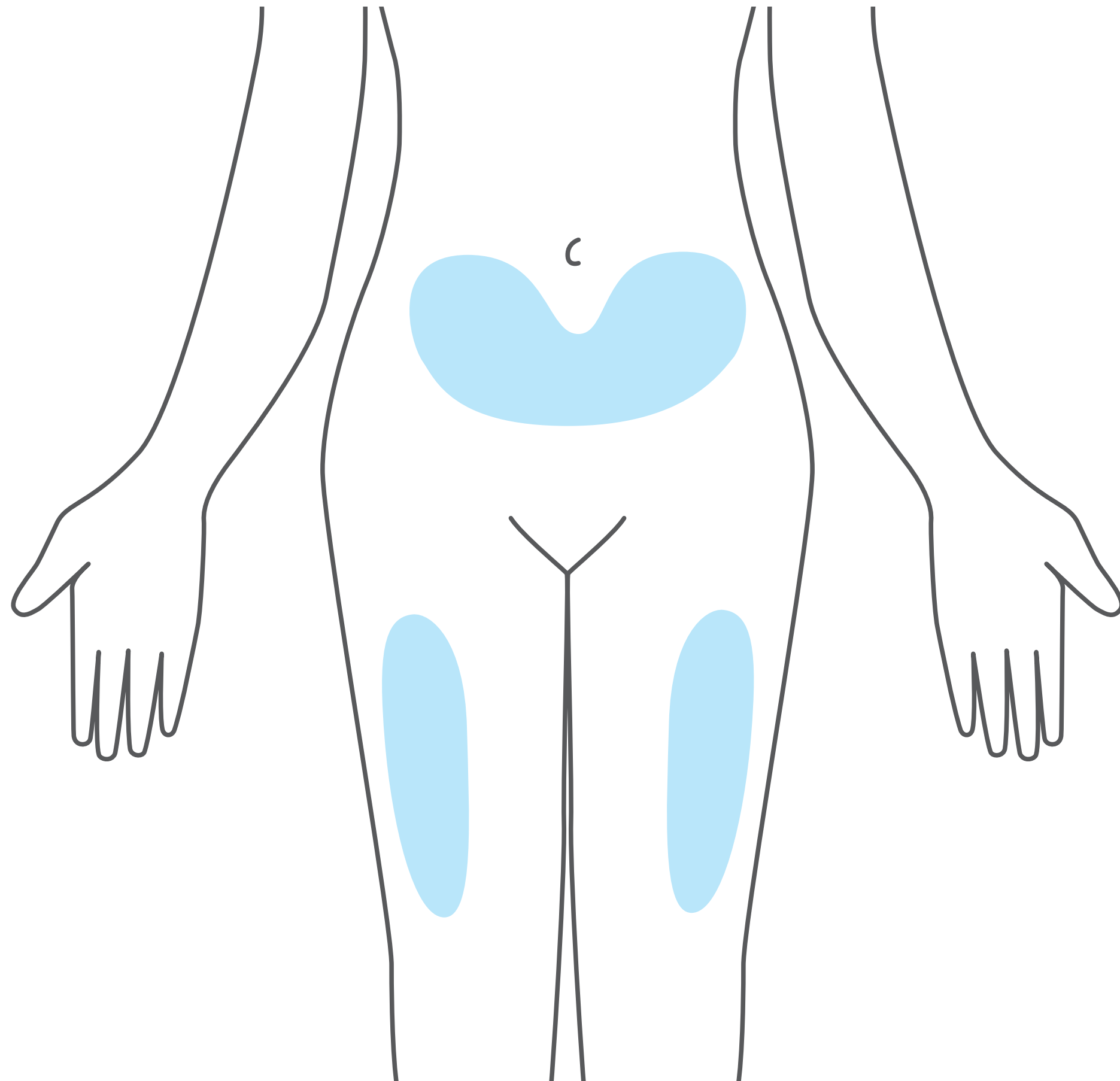
Subcutaneous injection

Subcutaneous injection



A subcutaneous injection involves depositing medication into the fatty tissue directly beneath the skin using a short injection needle. The needle is inserted at a 90 degree angle to the skin unless you were instructed otherwise.

Subcutaneous injection



The most convenient sites for subcutaneous injection are in the abdomen around the navel or upper thigh. Change the injection location each day to minimize discomfort. Always check with your physician or nurse for their injection site protocol. Avoid areas that are tender, hardened, swollen, scarred, itchy or burning.

Subcutaneous injection



Prior to giving the injection, clean the injection site with an alcohol wipe starting at the puncture site. Use firm pressure cleaning in a circular motion outward about 2 inches. Let the alcohol dry without fanning for a few seconds.

Subcutaneous injection



Hold syringe in your dominant hand between your thumb and finger as you would a pencil. With your free hand, gently pinch the skin at the injection site. You should be pinching one to two inches of skin. Insert the needle into the skin of the pinched area at a 90 degree angle to the skin, unless you were instructed otherwise, (using a quick dart like motion) to ensure that the medication is deposited into the fatty tissue.

Subcutaneous injection



After the needle is completely inserted into the skin, release the skin that you are pinching. Depress the plunger at a slow, steady rate until all the medication has been injected. Wait for five seconds before pulling the needle out of the skin. Apply pressure with a sterile gauze pad if needed.

Subcutaneous injection

Once the medication has been administered, dispose of the needle and syringe in the sharps container. Do not recap the needle.



Medication information

Leuprolide acetate injection

This drug stops the body from making sex hormones.

Common side effects

The most common side effects of this drug include hot flashes, lack of oxygen to the heart muscle and changes in heart activity, general pain and swelling. Other side effects include the following:

- feeling of weakness
- high blood pressure
- constipation
- decreased size of testicles
- growth of breasts
- breast tenderness or pain
- headache
- trouble sleeping or other sleep problems
- poor appetite
- frequent, urgent urination
- red blood cells in the urine
- nausea and vomiting
- low red blood cell count
- bone pain
- dizziness and lightheadedness
- sinus congestion
- rash
- impotence
- heart murmur
- muscle pain
- urinary tract infection

Medication information

- blood clots or swollen veins
- shortness of breath

Less common side effects include the following:

- chest pain
- irregular heartbeat
- heart attack
- blood clot on the lung
- diarrhea
- trouble swallowing
- bleeding stomach
- upset stomach
- ulcer
- abnormal growths on the rectum

- loss of interest in sex
- enlarged thyroid
- joint pain
- anxiety
- blurred vision
- sluggish feeling
- memory problems
- mood swings
- nervousness
- prickly or numb feeling in the body
- nerve damage
- fainting
- changes in taste

Medication information

- cough or creaking sound in the lungs
- pneumonia
- stiff or scarred lung tissue
- skin or ear cancer
- dry skin
- bruising
- hair loss
- itching
- skin reactions
- darkening of skin
- skin lesions
- bladder spasms
- painful urination
- accidental urination
- pain in testicles
- blocked urinary tract
- depression
- diabetes
- fatigue
- fever or chills
- low blood glucose (sugar)
- increased levels pf blood urea nitrogen, calcium
- and creatinine
- infection or inflammation
- eye problems
- swelling at the base and side of the head

Medication information

Other reported side effects include the following:

- low resting heart rate
- unusual sound from the heart
- premature contraction of the heart
- feeling of a fast heartbeat
- swollen blood vessels in the eyes
- enlarged aorta that bursts
- stroke
- fast heartbeat
- mini strokes
- gas
- dry mouth and throat
- hepatitis
- enlarged liver
- blood in stool
- abnormal passageway or redness in the rectum
- increased interest in sex
- thyroid nodules
- arthritis of the lower spine
- arthritis
- swelling in the eyes that causes blurred vision
- broken bones
- stiff or tender muscles
- scarring or masses in the pelvis
- spasms or cramps
- hearing sounds when there are none

Medication information

- ringing in the ears
- decreased hearing
- slow reflexes
- unusual feeling of well-being
- overactive reflexes
- loss of smell
- trouble with movement
- chest tightness
- quieter breathing
- coughing up blood
- sharp pain when breathing
- fluid in the lungs
- crackling or wheezing when breathing
- nasal inflammation
- strep throat
- wheezing or bronchitis
- pubic boils
- bruises
- hives
- skin growths
- moles
- shingles
- spider veins
- blisters on penis
- hernia in the groin
- swelling of penis
- urine left in the bladder after urination

Medication information

- prostate pain
- pus in the urine
- swollen abdomen
- swollen face
- burning feet
- flu
- eyelid growth
- low level of protein in the blood
- accidental injury
- swollen knee
- mass in the body
- pale skin
- yellow skin
- weakness
- injection site reaction
- liver problems
- low white blood cell count
- hair growth
- convulsions
- spinal fracture or paralysis
- hearing problems
- hard nodule in the throat
- weight gain
- increased uric acid
- swollen tendons
- breathing problems

Medication information

Serious side effects

If taken during pregnancy, this drug can harm an unborn child. Do not take this drug if you know or suspect you are pregnant.

Some patients have had severe allergic reactions to this drug.

This drug can weaken bones. It might also cause bleeding into the pituitary gland that needs treatment right away.

Speak with your doctor for information about the risks and benefits of available treatments.

Other information

Ask your doctor if this drug is right for you. Some patients should not take this drug.

Do not take this drug if you have any of the following conditions:

allergy to gonadotropin-releasing hormone or any other ingredients in leuprolide acetate or similar drugs

known or suspected pregnancy or potential to become pregnant

current breastfeeding

This drug is injected into the fatty tissue under the skin. Your doctor will teach you how to prepare and inject the drug.

Always follow the instructions provided by your doctor.

<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=8bd72c1e-2751-4498-a346-bc5e3acbba0b>
<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=a3b01473-30c7-4945-bd60-2484221aaaad>
Accessed 01/06/22

Ovidrel (Choriogonadotropin alfa injection) prefilled syringe

FOR SUBCUTANEOUS USE ONLY



- › Supplies needed
- › Preparing the medication
- › Subcutaneous injection
- › Medication information
- › Prescribing information

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY YOUR PHYSICIAN

Supplies needed



You will need the following supplies in preparation for the administration of Ovidrel prefilled syringe 250 mcg:

- Ovidrel prefilled syringe 250 mcg
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gauze pads (optional)
- Sharps container

→ [Preparing the medication](#)

Preparing the medication



Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Select a location for your supplies with a surface that is clean and dry such as a bathroom or kitchen counter or table. Wipe the area with antibacterial cloth or put a clean paper towel down for the supplies to rest on.

Preparing the medication



Check to be sure that you have the correct medication. Inspect your medications. Contact your doctor or pharmacy if:

- your medication has expired.
- the medication is cloudy or discolored (usually yellow).
- particles are floating in the medication vial.

Preparing the medication

Please allow the pre-filled syringe to adjust to room temperature before you administer your injection.



Preparing the medication



Remove the protective cap from the syringe, being careful not to touch the needle tip. Place the needle cap sideways on a clean dry flat surface.

Preparing the medication

Remove any bubbles of air from the syringe by holding it with the needle facing upward and gently tapping on the syringe so that the air moves to the top of the syringe.

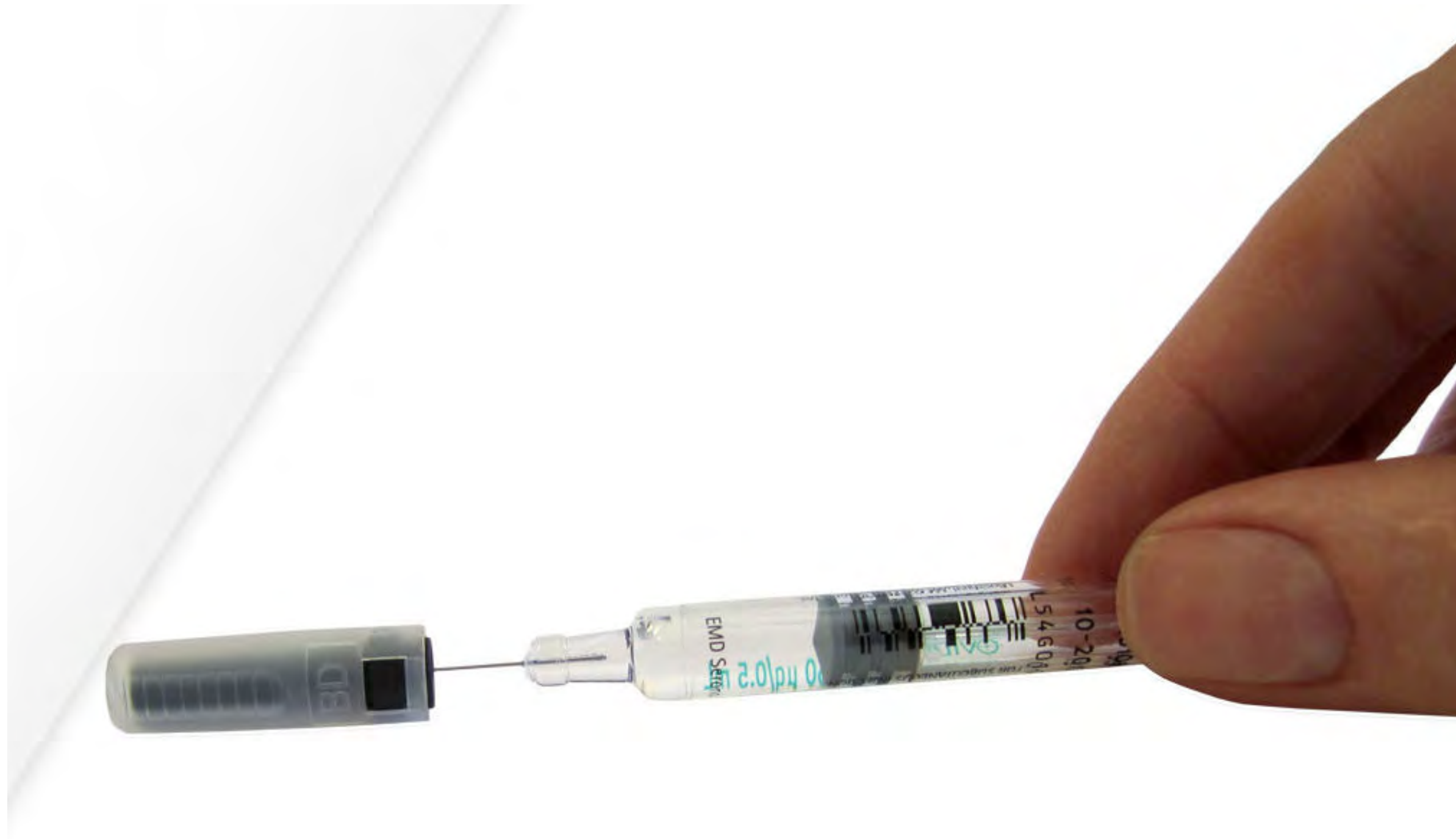


Preparing the medication

Gently push the plunger until a small drop of liquid reaches the tip of the needle. A small bubble of air in the syringe will not harm you.



Preparing the medication



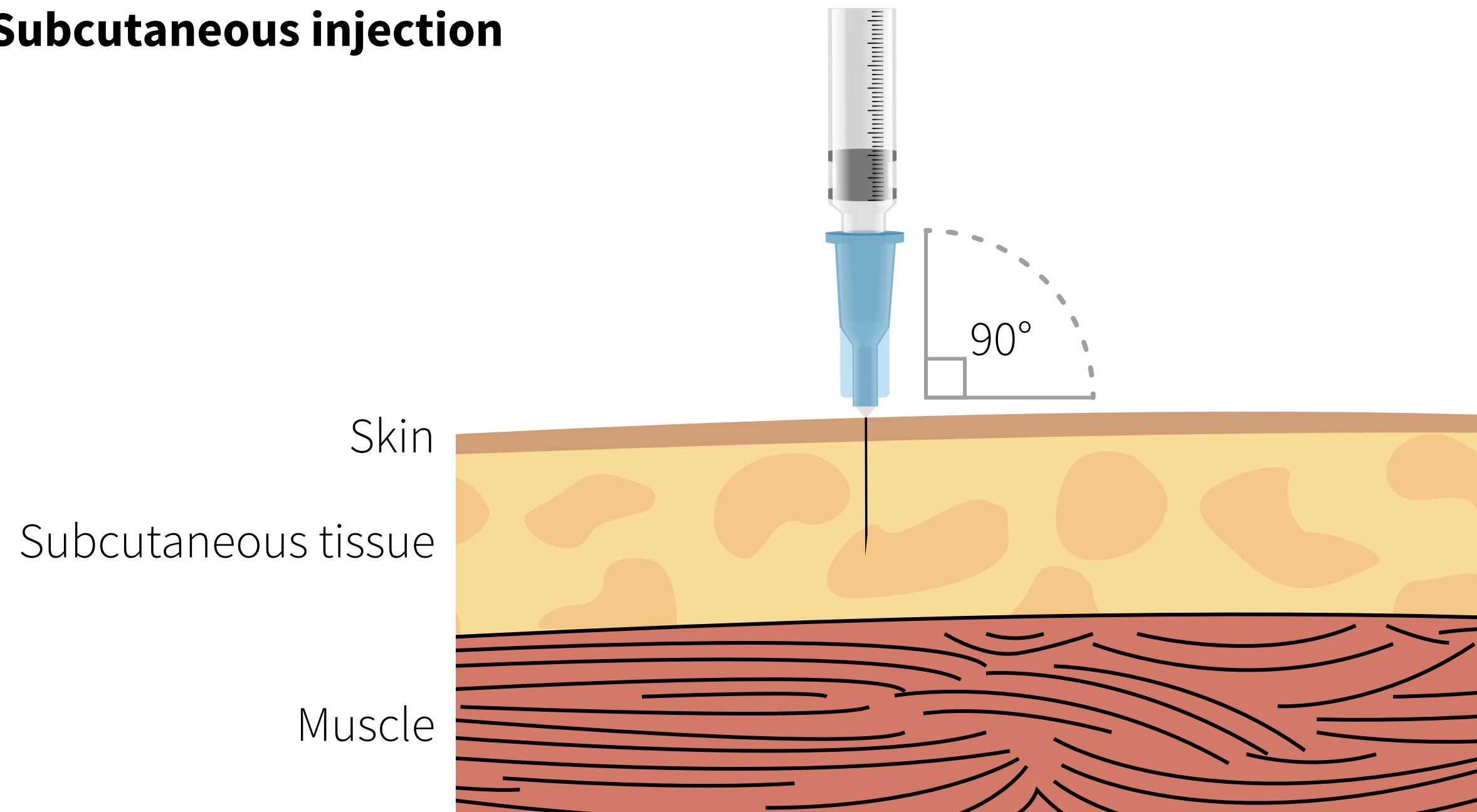
Carefully recap the needle by scooping up the cap. Be very sure to not contaminate the needle. Do not touch the needle or allow it to touch any surface.

The prescribed dose of Ovidrel prefilled syringe 250 mcg is ready for administration.

→ **Subcutaneous injection**

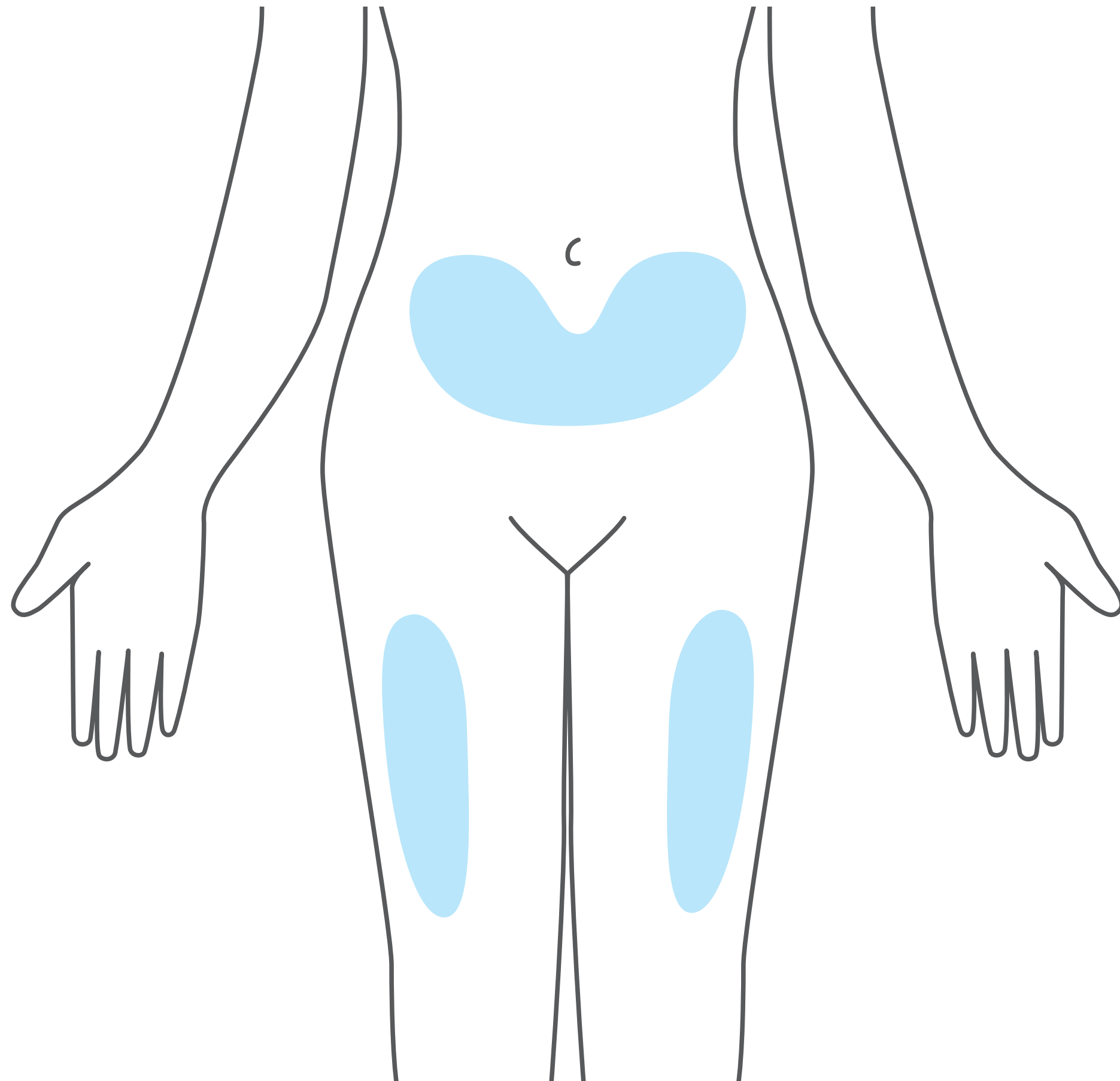
Subcutaneous injection

Subcutaneous injection



A subcutaneous injection involves depositing medication into the fatty tissue directly beneath the skin using a short injection needle. The needle is inserted at a 90 degree angle to the skin unless you were instructed otherwise.

Subcutaneous injection



The most convenient sites for subcutaneous injection are in the abdomen around the navel or upper thigh. Selecting an area for an subcutaneous injection will depend on directions from your doctor and medication’s instructions. You should choose a different site for each new injection—rotate your injection site as recommended by the manufacturer. The site you choose for your first injection does not matter, as long as the initial site is in an appropriate area. Avoid areas that are tender, hardened, swollen, scarred, itchy or burning.

Subcutaneous injection



Prior to giving the injection, clean the injection site with an alcohol wipe starting at the puncture site. Use firm pressure cleaning in a circular motion outward about 2 inches. Let the alcohol dry without fanning for a few seconds.

Subcutaneous injection



Hold syringe in your dominant hand between your thumb and finger as you would a pencil. With your free hand, gently pinch the skin at the injection site. You should be pinching one to two inches of skin.

Subcutaneous injection



With your free hand, gently pinch the skin at the injection site. You should be pinching one to two inches of skin. Insert the needle into the skin of the pinched area at a 90 degree angle to the skin, unless you were instructed otherwise, (using a quick dart like motion) to ensure that the medication is deposited into the fatty tissue.

Subcutaneous injection



After the needle is completely inserted into the skin, release the skin that you are pinching. Depress the plunger at a slow, steady rate until all the medication has been injected. Wait for five seconds before pulling the needle out of the skin. Apply pressure with a sterile gauze pad if needed.

Subcutaneous injection



Once the medication has been administered, dispose of the needle and syringe in the sharps container. Do not recap the needle.

Medication information

Ovidrel prefilled syringe (Choriogonadotropin alfa injection)

This drug is usually given to women who want to get pregnant. They have healthy ovaries but have trouble developing eggs on their own. This drug helps the ovaries mature and release eggs. It is given after treatment with pituitary desensitizing drugs and follicle-stimulating hormone.

Common side effects

For those taking this drug as part of fertility treatment, the most common side effects are injection site problems, problems with the stomach or intestines and injection site pain. Other side effects are injection site bruising, pain after surgery, stomach pain, nausea and vomiting.

Other less common side effects include the following:

- injection site inflammation and reaction
- gas
- diarrhea

- hiccups
- pregnancy outside of the uterus
- breast pain
- bleeding between periods
- vaginal bleeding
- abnormal cells on the cervix
- vaginal discharge
- ovarian hyperstimulation
- problems with the uterus
- vaginal inflammation or discomfort
- body pain
- back pain
- fever

Medication information

- dizziness
- headache
- hot flashes
- feeling of weakness
- prickly or numb feeling in the body
- rash
- mood changes
- trouble sleeping
- upper respiratory tract infection
- cough
- painful urination
- urinary tract infection

- urinating by accident
- protein in the urine
- irregular heartbeat
- vaginal yeast infection
- genital herpes
- high white blood cell count
- heart murmur
- cervical cancer

For those taking this drug to make eggs without other fertility treatment, the most common side effects are injection site problems, injection site pain and problems with the sex organs.

Medication information

Other side effects include the following:

- problems with the stomach or intestines
- injection site bruising
- injection site reaction
- ovarian cysts
- ovarian hyperstimulation
- stomach pain
- injection site inflammation

Other less common side effects include the following:

- breast pain
- gas
- swollen stomach
- sore throat

- upper respiratory tract infection
- high blood glucose (sugar)
- itching

Serious side effects

This drug can excite the ovaries too much. It can make them too large. This can cause swelling or pain in the abdomen or pelvic area. It might cause painful twisting of the ovaries. Tell your doctor right away if you have these symptoms.

This drug can cause ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS). This can fill the abdomen or chest with fluid. These problems can become fatal. Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following symptoms:

- severe pelvic pain
- nausea
- vomiting
- diarrhea

Medication information

- sudden weight gain
- trouble breathing
- less urine or trouble urinating

This drug might cause a pregnancy with more than one baby. It might raise the risk for blood clots and stroke. It might also cause bleeding in the lining of the abdomen.

Some patients taking this drug have had miscarriage. Others have had pregnancy outside of the uterus. Some have had early labor or fever after giving birth. Some have had severe allergic reactions.

Others have reported birth defects and ovarian tumors. However, the manufacturer states it is not clear if this drug is the cause of these conditions.

Speak with your doctor for information about the risks and benefits of available treatments.

Other information

Only doctors with experience treating infertility should prescribe this drug. Ask your doctor if this drug is right for you. Some patients should not take this drug.

Do not take this drug if you have any of the following conditions:

- allergy to human chorionic gonadotropin or any other ingredients in Ovidrel or similar drugs
- ovarian failure
- thyroid or adrenal gland problems
- pituitary tumor or other brain tumor
- unusual uterine bleeding
- ovarian cysts or enlarged ovaries
- sex hormone-dependent tumors in or around the sex organs
- known or suspected pregnancy

Medication information

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding. It is not known if this drug passes into breastmilk.

The usual dose of this drug is 250 mcg. The timing of this dose is unique for each patient. It will depend on her response to treatment.

This drug is injected into the fatty layer of tissue under the skin. Your doctor will teach you how to prepare and inject the drug.

Medication storage: Store medication per manufacturer instructions.

Always follow the instructions provided by your doctor.

<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=a683e58a-63ea-44b8-a326-1a99a537bcf2>
Accessed 01/06/22

Progesterone injection, USP

FOR INTRAMUSCULAR USE ONLY



- › Supplies needed
- › Preparing the medication
- › Intramuscular injection
- › Medication information
- › Prescribing information

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY YOUR PHYSICIAN

Supplies needed



You will need the following supplies to administer Progesterone injection, USP:

- 10 mL multiple dose vial of Progesterone injection, USP, 50 mg/mL
- 3 mL/cc syringe with mixing needle
- Administration needle (As prescribed by your physician)
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gauze pads (optional)
- Sharps container

→ [Preparing the medication](#)

Preparing the medication



Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Select a location for your supplies with a surface that is clean and dry such as a bathroom or kitchen counter or table. Wipe the area with antibacterial cloth or put a clean paper towel down for the supplies to rest on.

Preparing the medication



Check to be sure that you have the correct medication. Inspect your medications. Contact your doctor or pharmacy if:

- your medication has expired.
- the medication is cloudy or discolored (usually yellow).
- particles are floating in the medication vial.

Preparing the medication

Flip off the plastic cap from the vial of medication for the first use. Clean the rubber stopper with an alcohol wipe and let dry each time you use the medication.



Preparing the medication



Peel back the paper cover and remove the syringe. Some syringes come with the mixing needle already attached. Assure that the mixing needle is securely attached to the syringe by twisting it to the right, or clockwise onto the top of the syringe (needles that are attached by the manufacturer are often not firmly secured).

Preparing the medication

Remove the protective cap from the syringe, being careful not to touch the needle tip. Place the needle cap sideways on a clean dry flat surface.



Preparing the medication



Pull the syringe plunger back to the unit mark your physician has instructed you to administer.

Preparing the medication



Insert the needle into the rubber stopper on the medication vial and push the plunger to gently force air into the vial. This will enable you to easily withdraw the medication.

Preparing the medication



Invert the vial of medication (without removing or touching the needle). Assure that the tip of the needle is below the fluid level. Pull back on the plunger to slightly more than the recommended dose. Note that progesterone injection, USP is more viscous (thicker) than water so the liquid will not move into the syringe as quickly.

Preparing the medication



Without removing the needle from the vial, and while holding the vial and needle up straight, gently tap the syringe so that any air bubbles rise to the top of the syringe. Push the bubbles of air back into the vial and pull back on the plunger to assure that you have the accurate dose of medication in the syringe. This is only to assure that you have the appropriate amount of medication. A small bubble of air will not harm you.

Preparing the medication



Remove the needle from the vial. Recap the needle by scooping up the cap.
Remove the needle from syringe by twisting it to the left, or counterclockwise.
Do not touch the end of the syringe.

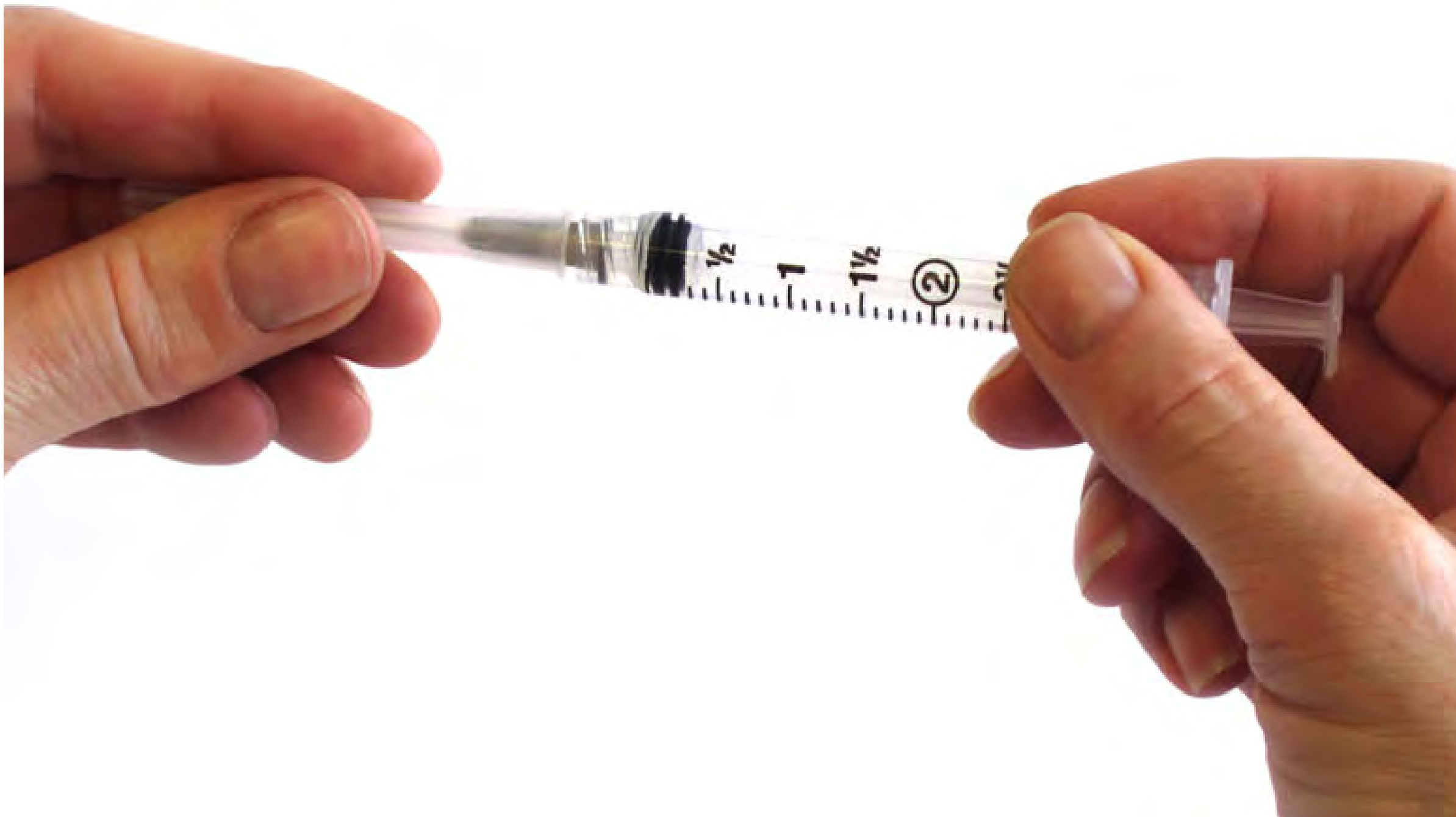
Preparing the medication

Dispose of the mixing needle in a sharps container.



Preparing the medication

Place the syringe with medication on a clean dry surface sideways being careful not to touch the syringe tip. Remove the injection needle from its sterile packaging and attach it to the syringe by twisting it to the right, or clockwise.



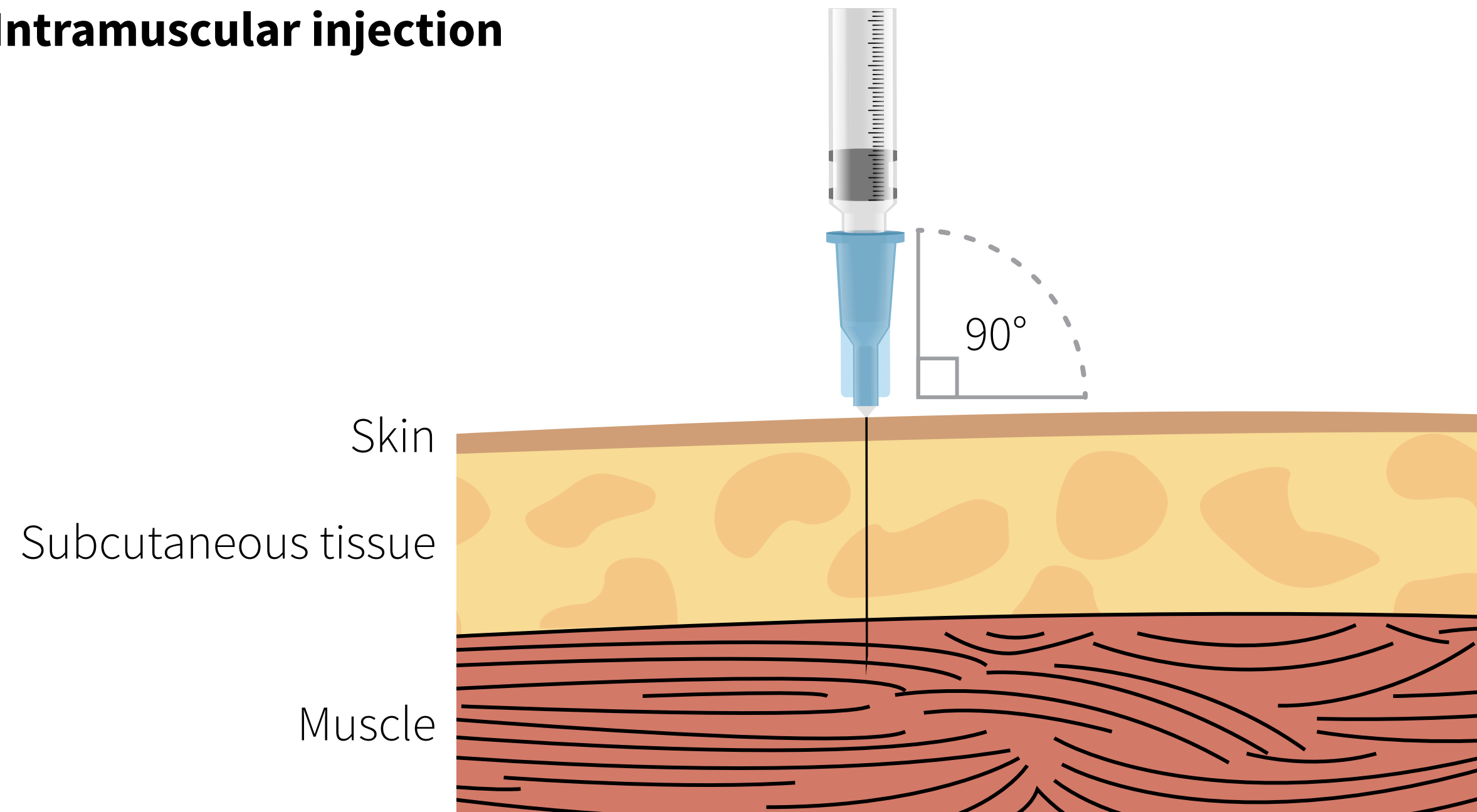
Preparing the medication

The prescribed dose of progesterone injection, USP is ready for administration. Remove the needle cap by pulling upward only when you are prepared to administer the injection.



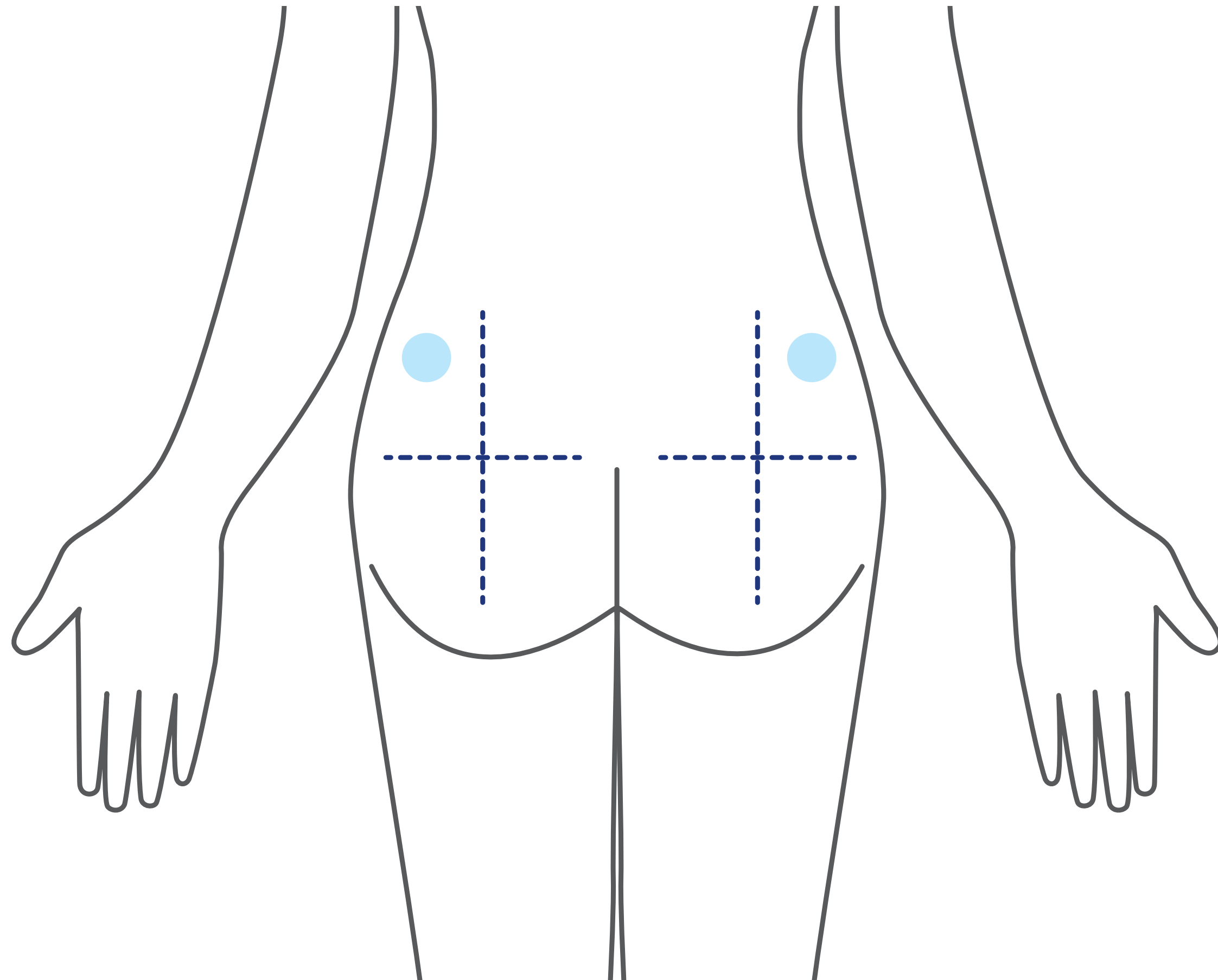
Intramuscular injection

Intramuscular injection



An intramuscular injection involves depositing medication into deep muscle tissue using a longer injection needle. The needle is inserted at a 90 degree angle to the skin.

Intramuscular injection



The most commonly used site for an intramuscular injection is the upper, outer quadrant of the buttock muscle near the hip. Always check with your physician or nurse for their injection site protocol.

Intramuscular injection



Prior to giving the injection, clean the injection site with an alcohol wipe starting at the puncture site, using firm pressure and working your way outward in a circular motion about two inches. Let the alcohol dry for a few seconds. This photo shows the left upper outer quadrant of the buttocks.

Intramuscular injection



Remove the needle cover, being careful not to touch the needle. Hold the syringe in your dominant hand between your thumb and fingers like you hold a pencil.

Intramuscular injection



With your thumb and index finger, stretch the skin of the injection site slightly. Try to relax the muscle you will be injecting as injecting into tense muscles will be more painful.

Holding the syringe straight up at a 90 degree angle to the skin from the injection site, insert the needle using a quick motion. A slow, gentle push will cause more pain. The needle must be inserted so that the entire needle is through the skin. This will ensure that the medication is deposited into the muscle tissue.

Intramuscular injection



Note: The step of slowly “pulling back” on the plunger of the syringe to see if blood flows into the syringe is specific to how you were instructed to give yourself an injection. It is important that you understand and follow your medication’s specific instructions. Depending on what your doctor told you to do, please see section A and B on the following step for more information.

Intramuscular injection



Sections A

If you were NOT instructed to pull back on the plunger, OR if you were instructed to do so and NO blood enters the syringe:

Slowly inject the medication by gently pushing the plunger until the syringe is empty. Remove the needle quickly, and apply pressure to the injection site with a gauze pad, if needed. Apply a bandage if necessary.

Intramuscular injection



Section B

If you were instructed to pull back on the plunger AND blood entered the syringe (this does not happen often), always follow the instructions provided by your physician, which may include:

Some physician/medication instructions may direct you to replace the needle only and proceed

OR

If you were instructed not give the injection:

1. Remove the needle from the injection site, and firmly press the injection site with a gauze pad for a few seconds, if needed. Apply a bandage if necessary.
2. Dispose of the needle and syringe as instructed.
3. Prepare another injection using previous instructions.
4. Use another injection site.

Intramuscular injection

Once the medication has been administered, dispose of the needle and syringe in the sharps container. Do not recap the needle.



Medication information

Progesterone injection

This drug is given to women whose bodies do not make enough progesterone.

Common side effects

Common side effects for this drug include the following:

- bleeding between periods
- spotting
- changes in menstrual flow
- stopped period
- swelling
- weight changes
- changes in inflammation of cervical cells
- changes in cervical fluids
- yellow skin and eyes
- tender breasts
- nipple discharge
- pain, irritation or redness at the injection area
- hives, itching, swelling and rash
- acne
- hair loss
- excess body hair
- allergic rash with and without itching
- severe allergic reaction
- depression
- fever
- trouble sleeping
- nausea
- sleep problems

Medication information

Serious side effects

This drug can raise the risk for blood clots, stroke and related conditions. This might include severe problems with eyesight. Some of these problems can become fatal.

Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following symptoms:

- pain in your calves or chest
- shortness of breath
- coughing that produces blood
- severe headache
- vomiting
- dizziness
- faintness
- changes in sight or speech
- weakness or numbness in an arm or leg

Call your doctor right away if you have any unusual vaginal bleeding, breast lumps or yellowing of the skin or eyes.

Speak with your doctor for information about the risks and benefits of available treatments.

Other information

Ask your doctor if this drug is right for you. Some patients should not take this drug.

Do not take this drug if you have any of the following conditions:

- current or past blood clots, stroke or related problems
- liver disease
- known or suspected cancer in the breast or genitals
- unusual vaginal bleeding
- miscarriage where tissue is still in the uterus

Medication information

- allergy to progesterone or similar drugs
- allergy to benzyl alcohol, sesame oil or sesame seeds

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding. This drug passes into breastmilk. It is not known how this might affect a nursing baby.

This drug is injected into the muscle. Your doctor will teach you how to prepare and inject the drug.

Medication storage: Store medication per manufacturer instructions.

Always follow the instructions provided by your doctor.

<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=a479b395-1e1a-4d2a-8feb-68a15c47225f>
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