

COMMONLY USED MEDICATIONS DURING SURROGACY

Medication	Administration	Use	Side Effects	Timing
Low Dose Aspirin (baby aspirin, 81mg)	Oral Tablet	Increases blood circulation and lowers inflammation in the body - both may help with embryo implantation and placental development.	Nausea, heartburn, easy bruising or bleeding	Before embryo transfer and through 1st trimester of pregnancy (12 weeks)
Birth Control Pills	Oral Tablet	The main purpose of taking birth control pills is for the clinic to be able to medically control when a surrogate will have her period and is therefore able to stop and start a surrogate's cycle.	nausea, vomiting, headaches, spotting	Prior to embryo transfer protocol
Lupron (leuprolide acetate)	Lupron is a subcutaneous (SQ) injection administered in fatty tissue such as the abdomen. The injection needle is small, a needle that resembles a diabetic insulin needle. The injection will be administered by the surrogate or her spouse/partner daily.	GnRH is a gonadotropin-releasing hormone. Lupron is a synthetic hormone that temporarily suppresses a surrogate's cycle.	headaches, fatigue, hot flashes	Prior to embryo transfer
Estrogen Estradiol (Estrace) Vivelle Patches Estradiol-Valerate	Estradiol can be in pill or patch form <i>or</i> given as a subcutaneous (SQ) injection. The injection (Estradiol Valerate) will be administered by the surrogate or her spouse/partner, most likely twice per week. The patches (Vivelle) are most commonly applied to the abdomen and estrogen	(Pre-pregnancy) A hormone that stimulates the development of the lining within the uterus. (During pregnancy) Estrogen is necessary to maintain an early pregnancy.	breast tenderness, nausea, bloating (injections) soreness, redness at the injection site (patches) skin redness, irritation or rash	Before embryo transfer & continuing through most of the 1st trimester.

	is absorbed through the skin.			
Progesterone Progesterone - in-Oil Endometrin Prometrium	Progesterone-in-Oil is an intramuscular (IM) injection administered into the muscle of the buttock. Endometrin is a vaginal suppository, while Prometrium is a pill that is inserted vaginally.	(Pre-pregnancy) A hormone that prepares the uterine lining for embryo implantation. (During Pregnancy) Progesterone is necessary to maintain an early early pregnancy.	Breast tenderness, headaches, dizziness, nausea, bloating, and fatigue (injections) redness, pain and swelling at the injection site (vaginal route) vaginal discharge	1-week prior to embryo transfer & continuing through the 1st trimester
Azithromycin (Z-Pack), Doxycycline	Oral tablet	A broad-spectrum antibiotic taken to prevent pelvic infection from occurring.	diarrhea, nausea, stomach discomfort, vomiting, and headache	Typically a 5-7 day course starting prior to embryo transfer
Medrol (Methylprednisolone)	Oral tablet	A low-dose steroid that is used to suppress the autoimmune system from interfering with embryo implantation.	headaches, mild stomach discomfort or bloating, dizziness	Taken around time of embryo transfer
Valium (Diazepam)	Oral tablet	Taken to help relax the surrogate and the uterine muscles so the embryo transfer catheter can pass into the uterus without difficulty.	drowsiness, muscle weakness, or loss of coordination	45-minutes prior to embryo transfer

***There are other variations of protocols that may include these medications, but with differing lengths of time to be on them or there may be protocols with alternate medications, alternate instructions and/or alternate routes. Even though the ones listed above are common, it doesn't mean they are the ones right for you. The Reproductive Endocrinologist you will be working with at your IVF Clinic will determine the protocol that is best for you!