

GnRH Antagonist (Cetrorelix) Minimal Stimulation Protocol

A Study for Clinical Efficacy of GnRH Antagonist (Cetrorelix) Minimal Stimulation Protocol in Assisted Reproductive Techniques for Polycystic Ovaian Syndrome

Sung Dae Park, Sang Hoon Lee

*Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, College of Medicine,
Chung-Ang University, Seoul, Korea*

Objective: The aim of this study was to evaluate the outcomes of the GnRH antagonist (Cetrorelix) minimal stimulation protocol comparing with GnRH agonist combined long step down stimulation protocol in PCOS patients.

Materials and Method: From Apr 2001 to May 2002, 22 patients (22 cycles) were performed in controlled ovarian hyperstimulation using by GnRH antagonist and GnRH agonist for PCOS patients. GnRH antagonist (Cetrorelix) combined minimal stimulation protocol was administered in 10 patients (10 cycles, Study Group) and GnRH agonist long step down stimulation protocol was administered in 12 patients (12 cycles, Control Group). We compared the pregnancy rate/cycle, total FSH (A)/cycle, Retrieved oocyte/cycle, the incidence of ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome, multiple pregnancy rate between the two groups. Student-t test were used to determine statistical significance. Statistical significance was defined as $p < 0.05$.

Results: Group of GnRH antagonist (Cetrorelix) minimal stimulation protocol produced fewer oocytes (6.4 versus 16.3 oocytes/cycle) using a lower dose of FSH (22.2 versus 36.1 IU/cycle) and none developed OHSS and multiple pregnancy. Although the trends were in favour of the GnRH antagonist (Cetrorelix) protocol, the differences did not reach statistical significance. This was probably due to small sample size.

Conclusion: The use of GnRH antagonist reduce the risk of ovarian hyperstimulation and multiple pregnancy. We suggest that GnRH antagonist might be alternative controlled ovarian hyperstimulation method, especially in PCOS patients who will be ovarian high response.

Key Words: GnRH antagonist, Ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome, Multiple pregnancy, PCOS

(Assisted Reproductive Technology, ART) (1994)

(Controlled Ovarian Hyperstimulation) GnRH antagonist (Cetrorelix)

LH surge

Clomiphene citrate minimal stimulation protocol

LH surge

가 .¹ (Polycystic ovarian syndrome)

가 Estradiol

가

LH 가 가 가 .⁷ Craft⁸

. Porter² (1984) (1999) GnRH antagonist

GnRH agonist

GnRH agonist gonadotropin

가 GnRH

down-regulation, gonadotrophic cell

medical hypophysectomy

GnRH antagonist (Cetrorelix) single injection

GnRH agonist step-down low-dose FSH protocol

LH surge

가

GnRH agonist

(ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome, OHSS)

2001 4 2002 5

. Albrecht³

(1996) World Health Organization (WHO) 2 classification PCOS

GnRH antagonist minimal stimulation protocol 10 (10), GnRH agonist step-down low-dose FSH protocol 12 (12)

GnRH gonadotropin .⁴

GnRH antagonist

Clomiphene citrate

1)

(1) GnRH antagonist group (Figure 1)

surge GnRH agonist 3 5 clomiphene citrate (Clomiphene,) 100 mg 8

. Olivennes⁵ , 6 pFSH (Me

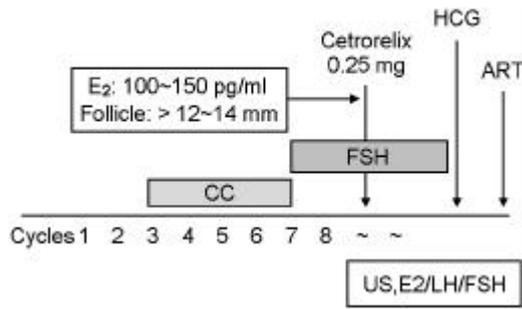


Figure 1. GnRH antagonist combined stimulation protocol (minimal stimulation protocol).

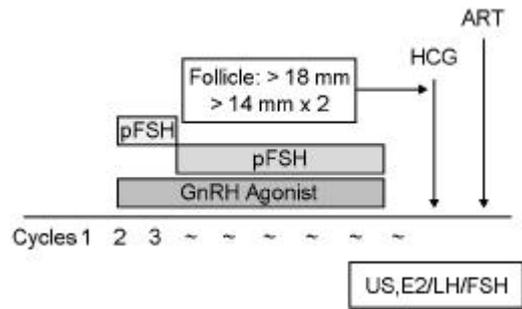


Figure 2. GnRH agonist combined step-down low-dose FSH protocol.

trodine HP, Serono International, Germany) 2 ample
5~6 . 8
Estradiol Estradiol 가
100~150pg/ml 12~14 mm
cetrorelix(Cetrotide, Serono International, Germany)0.25
mg . 18
mm , 14 mm
가 2 hCG 10,000 I.U (Choriomon,
IBSA, Swizerland)

Estradiol, LH, FSH
(2) GnRH agonist group (Figure 2)
2 leuprolide acetate (Lucrin, Abott,
France, 2 ml/ample) 0.2 cc (1.4 mg)
, 2 3 2 pFSH 3 (225
IU)

2 (150 IU) . pFSH 1
(75 IU) .
7 pFSH 150 IU

2)
hCG 36
2 ml Dulbe-
ccos phosphate buffered saline (D-PBS; GIBCO labora-
tory)

D-PBS
intrauterine catheter'

SSS가 가 P-1
5% CO₂가 . 37 ,
3) sterile spe-
cimen container (Baxter, USA)
20

WHO
2 swim-up
, Isolate kit
1.5 ml 15 ml conical tube
300 rpm

20 . 1 ml
가 CO₂ 1
swim-up .

, 가 ,
5 × 10⁵/ml
16~18
P-1 가

4)
, , 가 .
2 3 'norfolk
intrauterine catheter'

Table 1. Characteristics and basal hormone profile of women undergoing controlled ovarian hyperstimulation

	GnRH antagonist group (n=10)	GnRH agonist group (n=12)	p-value
Age (y)	33.2 ±1.4	34.3 ±2.8	NS
Duration of infertility (y)	4.5 ±1.4	4.8 ±2.3	NS
E ₂ (pg/ml)	49.5 ±13.4	52.3 ±20.2	NS
LH (mIU/ml)	22.5 ±9.4	24.5 ±6.7	NS
FSH (mIU/ml)	8.7 ±1.3	9.5 ±2.5	NS

E₂ : Estradiol, LH : Lutenizing hormone, FSH : Follicle stimulation hormone, NS : Not significant

Table 2. Hormone profile of women undergoing controlled ovarian hyperstimulation at hCG day

	GnRH antagonist group (n=10)	GnRH agonist group (n=12)	p-value
E ₂ (pg/ml)	2845 ±125	6424 ±234	< 0.01
LH (mIU/ml)	20.4 ±2.6	19.5 ±1.4	NS
FSH (mIU/ml)	16.5 ±3.4	17.4 ±2.7	NS

E₂ : Estradiol, LH : Lutenizing hormone, FSH : Follicle stimulation hormone, NS : Not significant

5) (Table 1).
 12
 2.
 ?-hCG 10 mIU/ml
 beta-kit . ?-hCG hCG- 2~3 GnRH antagonist GnRH ago-
 3 mIU/ml interassay variance (mIU/ml), E₂ (pg/ml) LH
 intraassay variance intraassay variance 6.0%, 가 (Table 1). hCG E₂
 3.1% . GnRH antagonist 2845 ±125 (pg/ml), GnRH
 6) agonist 6424 ±234 (pg/ml) GnRH antagonist (p<
 Student's t-test Fisher exact test GnRH agonist 165
 , p 0.05 0.01). FSH GnRH antagonist 17.4 ±4.7 (mIU/ml)
 가 . ±3.4 (mIU/ml), GnRH agonist 가 (Table 2).
 3.
 1. pFSH (/) GnRH
 GnRH antagonist minimal stimulation protocol antagonist 22.2 , GnRH agonist 36.1
 10 (10), GnRH agonist step-down GnRH agonist GnRH anta-
 low-dose FSH protocol 12 (12) gonist (p<0.05).
 . GnRH antagonist GnRH antagonist 13.2 ±2.8 ,
 33.2 ±1.4 , 4.5 ±1.4 . Gn GnRH agonist 15.8 ±1.7
 RH agonist 34.3 ±2.8 , 4.8 ± 가 .
 2.3 2 가

Table 3. Outcome of cycles on minimal stimulation protocol as compared to that of previous cycles on GnRH-a long stimulation step down protocol in polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) patients

	GnRH antagonist group (n=10)	GnRH agonist group (n=12)	p-value
Cancellation	None	None	-
Duration of stimulation (y)	13.2 ±2.8	15.8 ±1.7	< 0.05
Total FSH (ample)/cycle	22.2	36.1	< 0.05
Retrieved oocyte/cycle	6.4	16.3	< 0.01
OHSS	None	2	-
Clinical pregnancy/cycle	20% (2/10)	25% (3/12)	-
Abortion	None	1/3	-
Multiple pregnancy	None	1/3 (twin)	-

FSH : Follicle stimulation hormone, OHSS : ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome

4. 가
가 가 .¹⁰
GnRH antagonist 6.4 , GnRH agonist European study¹¹
GnRH antagonist Gn agonist
RH agonist (p<0.01). GnRH agonist
GnRH antagonist 20.0% (2/10), Gn ,
RH agonist 25% (3/12) .
(OHSS) GnRH antagonist
GnRH agonist 2 case
GnRH agonist 3 GnRH
1 (33.3%) . agonist
GnRH antagonist 가
GnRH agonist twin pregnancy 가 ,
(Table 3).
6%
2% .¹²
3 GnRH antagonist Ce-
torelix Ganirelix 2
Clomiphene citrate GnRH antagonist
(CC) 가 가 가 .⁴
LH surge GnRH agonist
gonadotropin ,
LH surge 2~3 가 .
GnRH agonist GnRH antagonist GnRH
gonadotropin
9 가 가

(p<0.05)

Egbase¹³ Ulug
 Estradiol 가 3000 pg/
 ml 15 mm

gonadotrophin 가 Estradiol

2~3 Es-
 tradiol (pg/ml) LH (mlU/ml),
 FSH (mlU/ml) 가

hCG Estradiol (pg/ml) GnRH
 antagonist group 2845 ±125 pg/ml, GnRH agonist
 group 6424 ±234 pg/ml GnRH antagonist group
 (p<0.01) GnRH anta-
 gonist 가

GnRH antagonist

가

가

1. Tummon IS, Daniel SAJ, Kaplan BR, Nisker JA, Yuzpe AA. Randomized, prospective comparison of luteal leuprolide acetate and gonadotropins versus clomiphene citrate and gonadotropins in 408 first cycles of in vitro fertilization. *Fertil Steril* 1992; 58: 563-8.
2. Poter RN, Smith W, Craft IL. Induction of ovulation for in vitro fertilization using busarelin and gonadotropins. *Lancet* 1984; 1284-5.
3. Albrecht JL, Tomich PG. The maternal and neonatal outcome of triple gestations. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 1996; 174: 1551-6.
4. Judith AF Huirne, Comelis B Lambalk. Gonadotropin-releasing-hormone-receptor antagonists. *The Lancet* 2001; 358: 1793-803.
5. Olivennes F, Fanchin R, Bouchard P, et al. The

single or dual administration of the gonadotropin-releasing hormone antagonist Cetrorelix is an in vitro fertilization-embryo transfer programme. *Fertil Steril* 1994; 62: 468-76.

6. Albano C, Riethmuller-Winzen H, Smitz J, Van Steirteghem A, Camus M, Devroey P. Comparison of different doses of gonadotropin-releasing hormone antagonist Cetrorelix during controlled ovarian hyperstimulation. *Fertil Steril* 1997; 67; 5: 917-22.
7. Smitz J, Camus M, Devroey P. Incidence of severe ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome after GnRH agonist/HMG superovulation for in vitro fertilization. *Hum Reprod* 1990; 5: 933-40.
8. Graft I, Gorgy A, Jennifer H, Menon D, Podsiadly B. Will GnRH antagonists provide new hope for patients considered 'difficult responders' to GnRH agonist protocols? 1999; 12(22): 2959-62.
9. Andreyko JL, Marshall LA, Dumesic DA, Jaffe RB. Therapeutic uses of gonadotropin-releasing hormone analogs. *Obstet Gynecol Surv* 1987; 42: 1-21.
10. Albano C, Platteau P, Devroey P. Gonadotropin releasing hormone antagonist: how good is the new hope? *Curr Opin Obstet Gynecol* 2001; 13: 257-62.
11. Albano C, Felberbaum R, Smitz J, et al. On behalf of the European Cetrorelix Study Group. Ovarian stimulation with HMG: results of a prospective randomized phase III European study comparing the luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone (LHRH)-antagonist cetrorelix and the LHRH-agonist busarelin. *Hum Reprod* 2000; 3: 526-31.
12. Elchalal U, Schenken JG. The pathophysiology of ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome - views and ideas. *Hum Reprod* 1997; 12: 1129-37.
13. Egbase PE, Sharhan M, Grudzinskas J. 'Early coasting' in patients with polycystic ovarian syndrome is consistent with good clinical outcome. *Hum Reprod* 2002; 17: 1212-6.
14. Ulug U, Bahceci M, Erden H, Shalev E, Ben-Shlomo I. The significance of coasting duration during ovarian stimulation for conception in assi-

- sted fertilization cycles. *Hum Reprod* 2002; 17(2): 310-3.
15. Demetrios M, Michael MA, Selwyn PO, Susan ML, Joseph FM, Spyros NP. Gonadotropin-releasing hormone antagonist versus agonist administration in women undergoing controlled ovarian hyperstimulation: Cycle performance and in vitro steroidogenesis of granulosa-lutein cells. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 1995; 172(5): 1518-25.
 16. Hoff JD, Lasley BL, Yen SSC. The functional relationship between priming and releasing actions of luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 1979; 49: 8-15.
 17. Yen SSC. The polycystic ovarian disease. *Clin Endocrinol (Oxford)* 1980; 12: 177-207.
 18. Yen SSC, Jaffe RB. *Reproduction*. Endocrinology 3rd Ed, Philadelphia, WB Saunders 1991; 593-7.
 19. Falcone T, Bourque J, Granger L, Hemmings R, Miron P. Polycystic ovary syndrome. *Current Problems Obstet Gynecol Fertil* 1993; 16: 72-89.
 20. Gysler MG, March CM, Mishell DR, Gailey EJ. A decade's experience with an individualized clomiphene treatment regimen including its effect on the postcoital test. *Fertil Steril* 1982; 37: 161-7.
 21. Chung-hoon Kim, Hee-done C, Eun-hee K, Hyung-sik C, Byund-moon K, Yoon-seok C. The effects of somatostatin analogue on ovarian response to ovulation induction in patients with polycystic ovarian syndrome. 1999; 42(3): 496-503.
 22. Ben-Rafael Z, Strauss JF III, Mastroianni L Jr, Flickinger GL. Differences in ovarian stimulation in human menopausal gonadotropin treated woman may be related to follicle-stimulating hormone accumulation. *Fertil Steril* 1986; 46: 586-92.
 23. Navot D, Margalioth EJ, Laufer N, Birkenfeld A, Relou A, Rosler A, et al. Direct correlation between plasma renin activity and severity of the ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome. *Fertil Steril* 1987; 48: 57-61.
 24. Wu TCJ, Gelety TH, Jih MH, Fournet N, Buyalos RP. Successful management of predicted severe ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome with gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonist. *J Assist Reprod Genet* 1992; 622-4.
 25. Itskovitz J, Boldes R, Levron J, Erlik Y, Kahana L, Brandes JM. Induction of preovulatory luteinizing hormone surge and prevention of ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome by gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonist. *Fertil Steril* 1991; 56: 213-20.
 26. Urman B, Pride SM, Yuen BH. Management of overstimulated gonadotrophin cycles with a controlled drift period. *Hum Reprod* 1992; 7: 918-22.
 27. Hall JE. Gonadotropin-releasing hormone antagonists: Effects on the ovarian follicle and corpus luteum. *Clin Obstet Gynecol* 1993; 36: 744-52.
 28. Borm G, Mannaerts B. The European Orgalutran Study Group. Treatment with the gonadotrophin-releasing hormone antagonist ganirelix in women undergoing ovarian stimulation with recombinant follicle stimulating hormone is effective, safe and convenient: results of a controlled, randomized, multicentre trial. *Hum Reprod* 2000; 15: 1490-8.