

PATIENT INFORMATION

Lipiodol

Adjuvant therapy

What is adjuvant therapy?

Adjuvant therapy, also known as 'add-ons', adjunct, complementary or alternative therapies, are recognised as an addition to standard assisted reproductive treatment and may be recommended to you with the intention to increase your success during your fertility treatment. There are numerous options available to you when accessing adjuvant therapies, including but not limited to the technology in laboratories, medical procedures, prescribed medications, nutritional supplements, and traditional medicines such as Chinese medicine, including acupuncture.

At present, the effectiveness of many adjuvant therapies is unknown, with little to no evidence that they will increase the success of your treatment or improve live birth rates. However, your health care provider may recommend adjuvant therapy when considering your medical history and tailoring your treatment plan.

It is important to consider the effectiveness, risks and financial costs of adjuvant therapies.

What is lipiodol and how it is normally used?

Lipiodol is an oil-based contrast agent containing poppy seed oil and iodine. It is used in several diagnostic procedures however in fertility it is most commonly used alongside a hysterosalpingogram (HSG) - also known as a tubal patency test. This is a procedure using Xray to confirm that the fallopian tubes are open & the uterus shape is normal. Once confirmed, the Lipiodol is injected in to the uterus and the tubes. A tubal patency test with Lipiodol flush is general well tolerated and minimally invasive.

Why is lipiodol recommended, and will it increase the success of my treatment?

Your fertility specialist may recommend that you have a lipiodol flush at the commencement of or throughout your fertility journey. It has been suggested that Lipiodol may improve fertility and the chances of pregnancy in the 3-6 months following, particularly in women with endometriosis and those with unexplained infertility. Some studies suggest that bathing the uterus in lipiodol is a way of nourishing and enhancing the uterine environment in order to improve the success of embryo implantation however there is limited research, and more studies are needed.

What are the common side effects?

Some common side effects can include:

- Allergic reaction
- High fever during the hours following the examination
- Cramping

PATIENT INFORMATION

Lipiodol

Adjuvant therapy

- Inflamed pancreas, gall bladder or stomach pain
- Exacerbation of pelvic inflammatory disease
- Digestive disorders such as nausea, vomiting & diarrhoea.
- Signs of an overactive thyroid i.e. weight loss, accelerated heart rate, anxiety & insomnia.
- Signs of an underactive thyroid i.e. weight gain, slow heart rate, constipation & tiredness.
- Granuloma formation.

Regarding any additional side effects or contraindications for Lipiodol, please refer to the Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) sheet.

Please inform your specialist if you have:

- Pelvic inflammatory disease
- History of hypersensitivity to iodine or poppy seed oil
- Blocked fallopian tubes
- Endocervicitis and intrauterine bleeding
- Hyperthyroidism
- Traumatic injuries or recent haemorrhage or bleeding
- Are in the immediate pre or post menstrual phase, or within 30 days of curettage or conisation

Are there risks to using lipiodol during pregnancy?

Lipiodol is a Category C drug, which means its safety has not been demonstrated and therefore should not be used with hysterosalpingography if pregnancy is confirmed or suspected. Lipiodol flush will be prescribed for some patients as a pre-pregnancy adjuvant only.

What are the costs?

Cost of Lipiodol: The cost of Lipiodol is approximately \$540. You will also be given a prophylactic antibiotic to prevent infection.

Is Lipiodol included in the cost of my cycle: Lipiodol is an additional expense and is not included in the cost of your cycle. We recommend and refer to Dr Charles Siles from Siles Health to perform your tubal patency test with Lipiodol flush. The cost for this procedure is \$699.00 and you will receive approx. \$200.00 Medicare rebate.

**Price current May 2022, however subject to change.*



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Lipiodol

Adjuvant therapy

The information provided above is intended for educational purposes only and should not be used as a substitute or replacement for medical advice received from a medical professional. It is important to discuss your individual circumstances and situation with your treating doctor.