

Poor responder                      Clomiphene Citrate  
Controlled Ovarian Hyperstimulation

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= Abstract =

**Efficacy of clomiphene citrate stimulated cycle in poor  
responders in in vitro fertilization**

The purpose of this study is compare IVF cycle outcome in poor responders between clomiphene citrate (CC) stimulated and controlled ovarian hyperstimulation (COH) protocol. A total of 94 patients responding poorly in previous IVF cycles (estradiol < 600 pg/ml or less than 3 oocytes retrieved) subsequently underwent either COH (COH group: 122 cycles, 68 patients) or CC-stimulated cycles (CC group: 43 cycles, 26 patients). CC was administered for five consecutive days starting on cycle day 3 at a dose of 100 ng daily. Serial transvaginal ultrasound examination was done from cycle day 8. Urine was collected 3-4 times before hCG injection for the detection of LH surge. The hCG

was administered when serum estradiol reached greater than 150 pg/ml and mean follicle diameter > 16 mm. In COH group, ovarian stimulation was done using short protocol (GnRH-a/FSH/HMG/hCG). No difference in age or number of transferred embryos was found between CC group and COH group. COH group had significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) higher mean peak level of E<sub>2</sub> ( $810 \pm 112$  vs  $412 \pm 55$  pg/ml) and greater number of retrieved oocytes ( $3.0 \pm 0.2$  vs  $2.0 \pm 0.2$ ) than CC group. CC group had transferred embryos ( $1.8 \pm 0.2$ ) compared with ( $2.1 \pm 0.2$ ) in COH group. However, CC group had higher pregnancy rate than COH group per retrieval [26.9% (7/26) vs 6.2% (6/97)], or per transfer [31.8% (7/22) vs 7% (6/86)]. Although cycle cancellation rate in CC group (48.8%) was higher than that of COH group (21.3%), the pregnancy rate per cycle in CC group was still higher (16.3%) than COH group (4.9%). In addition, implantation rate in CC group was 17.5% (7/40), which was significantly ( $p < 0.01$ ) higher than 3.9% (7/180) in COH group. These data suggest that oocyte and embryo quality are lower in COH cycles of poor responders than CC cycles. We suggest that clomiphene citrate stimulated IVF cycle may be more efficient than COH IVF cycle in poor responders in terms of lower costs and higher pregnancy performance.

**Key Words:** Poor responder, IVF-ET, Clomiphene citrate, Controlled ovarian hyperstimulation.

1987

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,  
GnRH agonist

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poor responder

가 (Jenkins et al, 1991), , (Gidleg Baird et al, 1986). poor responder , (Karande et al, 1996; Dbr et al, 1995). clomiphene citrate (CC) , poor responder CC poor responder controlled ovarian hyperstimulation (COH) clomiphene Citrate .

1.

1994 1 1997 6  
 110 poor responder 224 .  
 , , ,  
 . Poor responders hCG injection  
 estradiol (E2) 600 pg/ml  
 가 3 . poor responder  
 68 122  
 , 26 43 CC .  
 2 E2, LH, FSH  
 , 3Gm E2 level 50 pg/ml

2.

CC 3 7 5 100 mg

CC , 8 E2

가 14mm urine LH . 16 mm

가 hCG 10,000 IU

urine LH가

GnRH-a short protocol .

2 GnRH-a super fact 0.5ng , 3

FSH FSH HMG . 3

가 16mm E2 hCG 10,000 IU

, hCG 34

, 42-48 .

chi-square test Student's t-test

p<0.05 가 .

1.

COH CC 36.2 ( ±0.8) , 37.3 ( ±0.4)

가 (p=0.95, t-test), 2.1 ±

0.2, 1.8 ±0.2 가 . CC LH surge가

26% (11/43) . COH CC hCG

E2 810 ±112, 412 ±55pg/ml ,  
 3.0 ±0.2, 2.0 ±0.2  
 (p<0.05, t-test)(Table 1).

2.  
 COH CC 6.2% (6/97), 26.9% (7/26)  
 , 7% (6/86), 31.8% (7/22) COH  
 CC , 3.9% (7/180), 17.5% (7/40)  
 CC (p<0.01, chi-square  
 test). poor responder CC COH  
 ,  
 (Table 2).  
 CC ,  
 ,  
 (t<0.05, t-test)(Table 3).

Table 1. Characteristics of CC versus COH cycle

	CC	COH	p-value
Nb. of cycles	43	122	
Age	37.3 ±0.8*	36.2 ±0.4	NS
E2 on hCG day (pg/ml)	412 ±55	810 ±112	p<0.05
Spontaneous LH surge	11 (26%)	2 (1.6%)	
Nb. retrieved oocytes	2.0 ±0.2	3.0 ±0.2	p<0.05
Nb. of good embryo	1.4 ±0.1	1.8 ±0.2	NS
Nb. transferred embryos	1.8 ±0.2	2.1 ±0.2	NS

\* Values are mean ± SEM

NS : not significant

Table 2. Comparison of cycle outcome

	CC	CCH	p-value
	n (%)	n (%)	
Nb. of cycle started	43	122	
Cancellation of CPU	17 (40)	25 (20)	NS
Nb. of ET cycle	22 (51)	86 (70)	NS
PR per cycle started	7/43 (16.3)	6/122 (4.9)	<0.05
PR per retrieval	7/26 (26.9)	6/97 (6.2)	<0.01
PR per transfer	7/22 (31.8)	6/86 (7.0)	<0.01
Implantation rate	7/40 (17.5)	7/180 (3.9)	<0.01

PR : pregnancy rate

Table 3. Response to clomiphene citrate stimulation in pregnant and nonpregnant cycles

	Pregnant (n=7)	Not pregnant (n=36)
Age	35.2 ±0.49	36.8 ±0.76
Nb. of oocyte retrieval	2.0* ±0.35	1.13 ±0.17
Nb. of transferred embryos	1.89* ±0.19	0.8 ±0.14

Values are mean ± SEM

\* p<0.05

1978

가

. poor responder

follicular

recruitment (Sathanandan et al, 1989)

cleavage rate (Rysselberge et al, 1989).

2 hMG (Van-Hoff et al, 1993), long (Dor

et al, 1992), short (Karande et al, 1996; Tasdermir et al, 1996),

ultrashort (Serafini et al, 1988) protocol GnRH-a ,

GnRH-a ,

(McKenna et al,

1989). Poor responder 가 ovarian stimulation protocol

hMG

가 (Jenkins et al, 1991)

, assisted hatching

(Cohen et al, 1992; Schoolcraft et al, 1994) embryo damage

protocol poor responder .

CC (Stenkampf et al, 1992;

Hult et al, 1992; Kellow et al, 1981) ,

(Lindheim et al, 1997;

Seibel et al, 1995; Daya et al, 1995; Hult et al, 1992) poor

responder , Lindheim poor

responder

(Lindheim et al, 1997).

poor responder ,  
 clomiphene citrate , clomiphene citrate  
 E2 ,  
 , ,  
 , ,  
 .  
 , 가  
 endometrial receptivity가 .  
 CC 가

(Stenkampf et al, 1992; Seibel et al, 1995).

poor responder CC ,

1994 1 1997 6  
 110 poor responder 224 .  
 poor responders hCG injection E2 600 pg/ml  
 가 3 .  
 poor responder 68 122  
 , 26 43 CC

1. CCH CC 36.2 , 37.3  
 가 , 2.1 ± 0.2, 1.8 ± 0.2 가 .



2. CC LH surge가 26% (11/43)
3. COH CC hCG E2 810 ±112, 412 ±55pg/ml  
 , 3.0 ±0.2, 2.0 ±0.2
4. COH CC 6.2% (6/97), 26.9% (7/26)  
 , 7%(6/86), 31.8%(7/22) COH  
 CC .
5. 3.9% (7/180), 17.5% (7/40) CC
6. CC ,  
 ,  
 .  
 , poor ovarian responder COH  
 CC 가 ,  
 clomiphene citrate  
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