

12.5.4.1 SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICATIONS

1) **FOLIC ACID**

An insufficiency of Folic Acid in women conceiving and during pregnancy has been implicated in the increased incidence of Neural Tube defects in babies (eg Spina Bifida)

All women are advised to take one 5mg Folic Acid tablet daily at the commencement of treatment and throughout any resultant pregnancy.

All ART patients can get these from Concept and all other patients should get these from a Pharmacy.

2) **DOXYCYCLINE 100mg *(MUST BE TAKEN WITH FOOD)***

a) **MEN**

Semen samples contain various strains of bacteria. Although these do not normally cause any problems they can possibly interfere with embryo growth in ART treatment cycles.

All men will be required to take one 100mg tablet daily for approximately two weeks before your partner's ovum (egg) collection. Doxycycline will destroy the bacteria in the semen sample and therefore help to eliminate any chance of infection of the subsequent embryos.

b) **WOMEN**

Women carry various bacteria in their vagina and cervix. Introduction of these bacteria during the Egg Collection procedure or the Embryo Replacement in patients undergoing IVF, ICSI, and Frozen Embryo Replacement may cause embryo loss.

All women undergoing IVF/ICSI are asked to take one 100mg tablet the night before your operation and then twice a day for 5 days commencing after the operation. All women undergoing Frozen Embryo Transfer are asked to take one 100mg tablet the night before their Embryo transfer and then twice a day for 3 days.

SIDE EFFECTS: In some instances, some people may become photosensitive. This means their skin becomes more sensitive to sunlight with an increased risk of burning. Full protection using clothing and sunblocks should be undertaken. Other reactions may include skin rashes, nausea, diarrhoea and vomiting. In some instances, some women may contract Candida (Thrush) in the vagina. If this occurs contact the Co-ordinating Sister at Concept and she will issue you with some Antifungal cream.

NOTE: PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICATIONS ARE FOR YOUR BENEFIT. PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY AND CONTACT THE CO-ORDINATING SISTER IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THESE FULLY.