



FERTILITY CENTER

*Pathway to Parenthood*

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## INTRALIPID THERAPY

Intralipid therapy is a novel approach to the treatment of patients with immune based **recurrent pregnancy loss** or failure of implantation. Heretofore, such patients were treated with IVIg. However there were several drawbacks to this approach, most notably price – IVIg is very expensive. Consequently, a novel approach to this problem has been investigated and found to be as efficacious as IVIg therapy.

As with any new treatment, there are still some unknown effects of Intralipid therapy. The treatment involves the administration of two intravenous infusions. One is administered prior to the egg retrieval and the second is only administered upon confirmation of a positive pregnancy test. Each infusion consists of 4 mL of 20% solution of Intralipid mixed with 250 mL normal saline, infused over a reasonable period of time (usually less than one hour).

### **BENEFITS AND RISKS**

The reasonably foreseeable risks associated with intralipid infusion, may include the following: dyspnea (shortness of breath), cyanosis, allergic reactions, hyperlipemia, hypercoagulability, nausea, vomiting, headache, flushing, increase in temperature, sweating, sleepiness, pain in chest and back, slight pressure over the eyes, dizziness and irritation at the site of infusion.

The deposition of brown pigmentation in the reticuloendothelial system, the so-called “intravenous fat pigment,” has been reported in patients infused with Intralipid 10% (a 10% Intravenous Fat Emulsion). The causes and significance of this phenomenon are unknown. While these risks are reasonably foreseeable, there may be others that will arise which are not reasonably foreseeable.

### **INTRALIPID INFUSION: EXPLANATION**

Intralipid infusions for the treatment of recurrent pregnancy loss are an **experimental** treatment that requires giving the patient medication through an intravenous infusion. This process takes place in our offices over, approximately, a one hour time period. Each infusion must be ordered by your physician, and, often, repeat infusions are needed. In addition, monitoring of blood values and/ or ultrasounds may be necessary to determine the effectiveness of each intralipid infusion treatment. Monitoring needs will

be determined by your physician, and are often done at a second appointment after your intralipid treatment.

Intralipid infusion treatment is broken down into three separate cost components: the medication, the infusion and monitoring.

Since intralipid infusions are considered experimental this service is not billable to, or reimbursable by, insurance. A billing representative at New York Fertility Services will discuss the costs associated with the infusion. These costs are the patient's responsibility and must be paid at the time of service, prior to services being rendered.

**I acknowledge receipt of the above information on intralipid medication, infusion, and monitoring, and have had the opportunity to discuss this with the Center staff. If I decide to have intralipid treatment at the Center, I accept the payment conditions and my financial responsibility, as outlined above.**

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*This handout is intended as an aid to provide patients with general information. As science is rapidly evolving, some new information may not be presented here. It is not intended to replace or define evaluation and treatment by a physician.*