

# Reproduction and ovarian failure

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# Reproduction and ovarian failure

- Definition
- Etiology
- Therapy
  - Pretreatment
  - Stimulation protocols
  - Novel therapies

# Definitions, incidence

Premature ovarian failure (POF) - 1-3%

A syndrome, characterised by the cessation of ovarian function before the age of 40 years with associated elevated gonadotropin levels (FSH ! 40 mIU/ ml),

It comprises a triad of amenorrhoea, hypergonadotropinism, and hypoestrogenism.

Premature ovarian insufficiency (POI) .

Premature ovarian senescence (POS) - 10%

Premature ovarian aging (POA),

Occult primary ovarian insufficiency (OPOI),

Low ovarian response - 9 to 24%

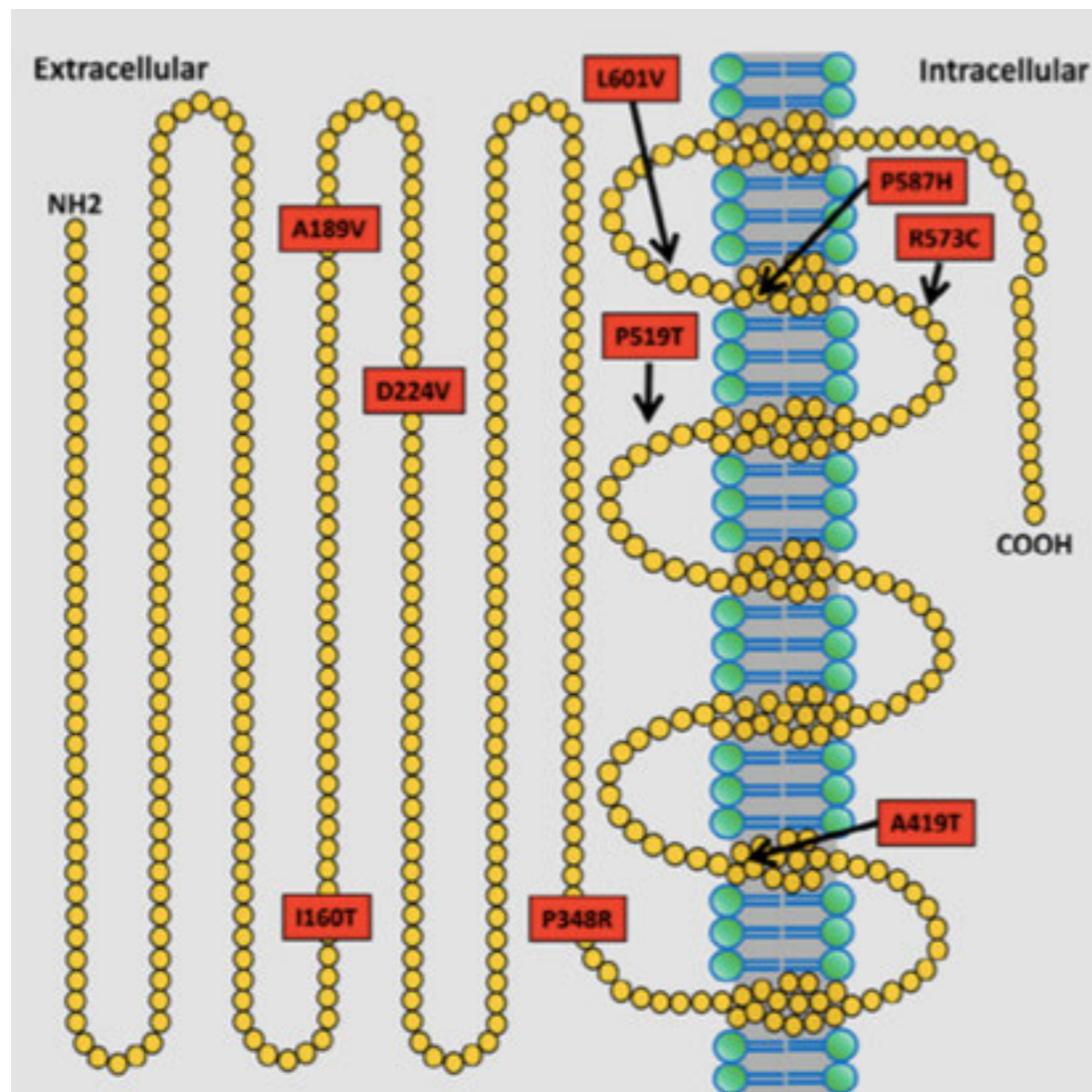
- 500 pg/l peak estradiol levels and/or < 4-5 dominant follicles on day of hCG, < 3 number of embryos
- Perimenopausis
- Postmenopausis

# Etiology

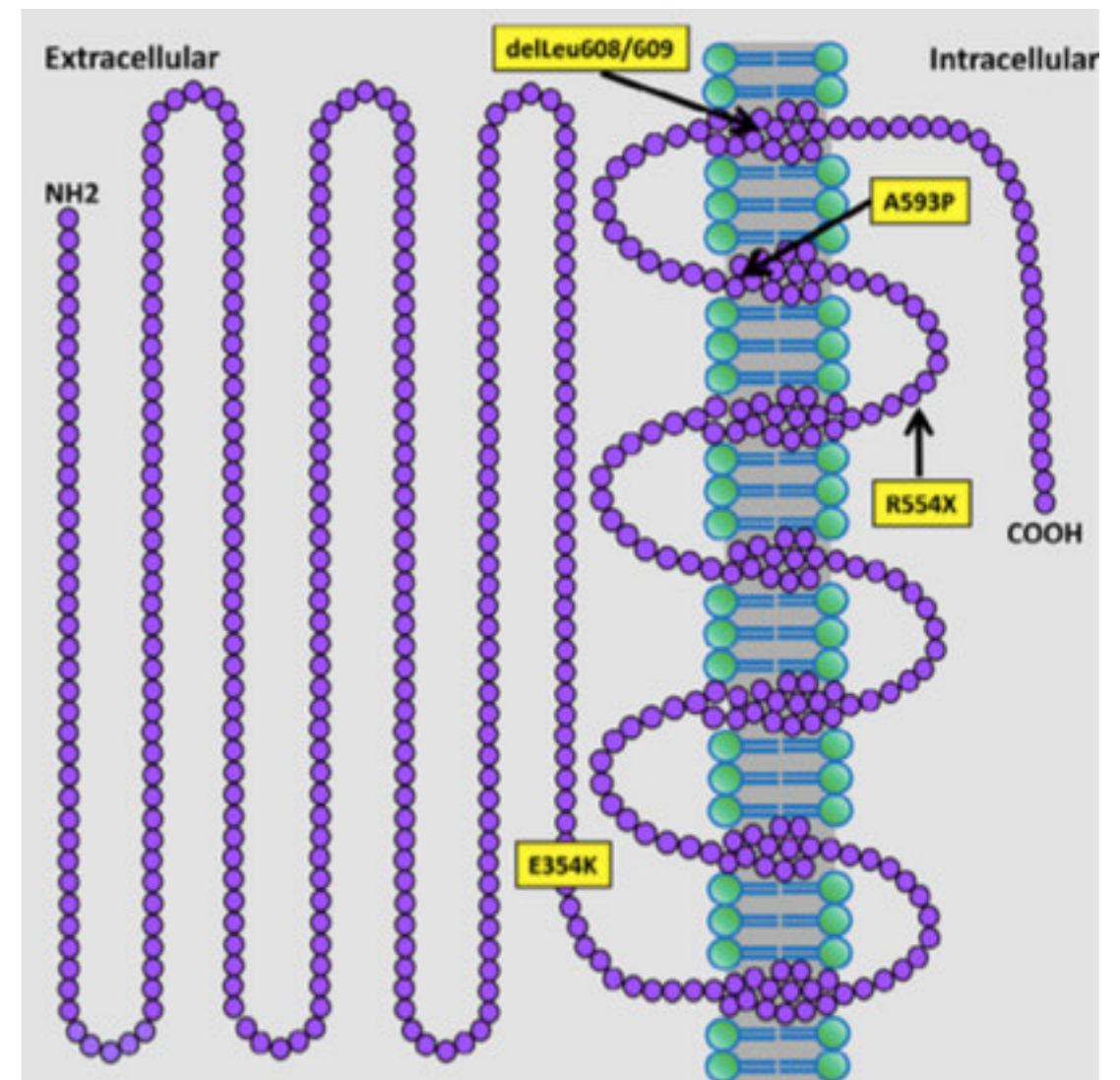
- a. Genetic factors.
- b. Autoimmunity.
- c. Egzogenic factors
- d. Jatrogenic procedures.

Medical history	In association with
<i>Conditions associated with low numbers of follicles at birth/menarche</i>	Turner syndrome – associated with POF/POI Idiopathic/genetics – association?
<i>Excessive recruitment</i>	<i>FMR1</i> mutations Premutation range (CGG <sub>n=55-200</sub> ) – associated with POF/POI Monoallelic <i>low</i> sub-genotype – associated with POA/OPOI Biallelic <i>low</i> sub-genotype – associated with POA/OPOI <i>AMHR2</i> gene – associated with POF/POI <i>AIRE</i> gene – associated with POF/POI
<i>Other genetic causes</i>	<i>BRCA1</i> mutations – associated with POA/OPOI
<i>Space occupying lesions and iatrogenic factors -mostly associated with POF/POI but also with POA/OPOI</i>	Ovarian surgery Chemotherapy Radiation therapy Bone marrow transplantation
<i>Other medical risk factors</i>	Endometriosis – associated with POA/OPOI Polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) – associated with POA/OPOI >>> > in association with <i>low FMR1</i> mutations and risk further augmented in presence of autoimmunity
<i>Autoimmunity –mostly associated with POA/OPOI but also with POF/POI</i>	Thyroid autoimmunity Adrenal autoimmunity Any other autoimmunity Autoimmune polyglandular syndromes Family history of autoimmune disease* History of repeated pregnancy loss
<i>Early history of maternal/ sibling menopause</i>	

# FSHR and LHCGR mutations causative of non-syndromic POF.



FSHR



LHCGR

## Nuclear receptor subfamily 5 group A member 1 (NRA5A) - Steroidogenic factor 1

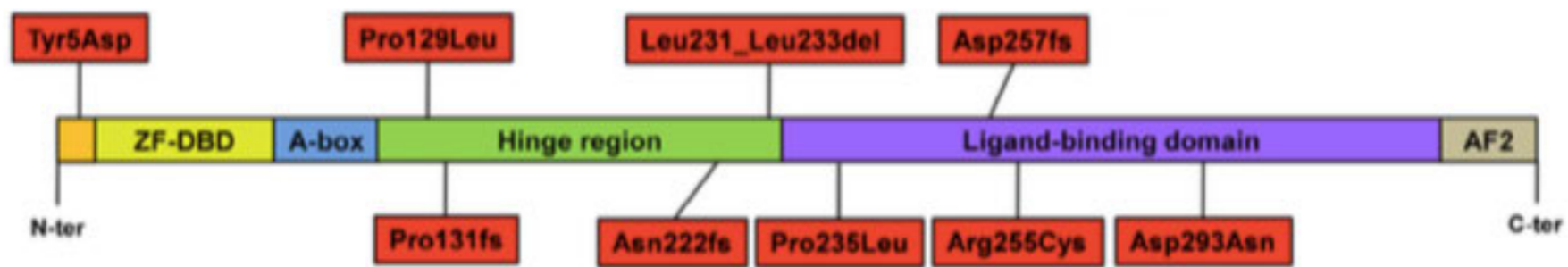


Fig. 3. NRA5A1 mutations causative of non-syndromic POF.

## Newborn ovary homeobox (NOBOX) gene

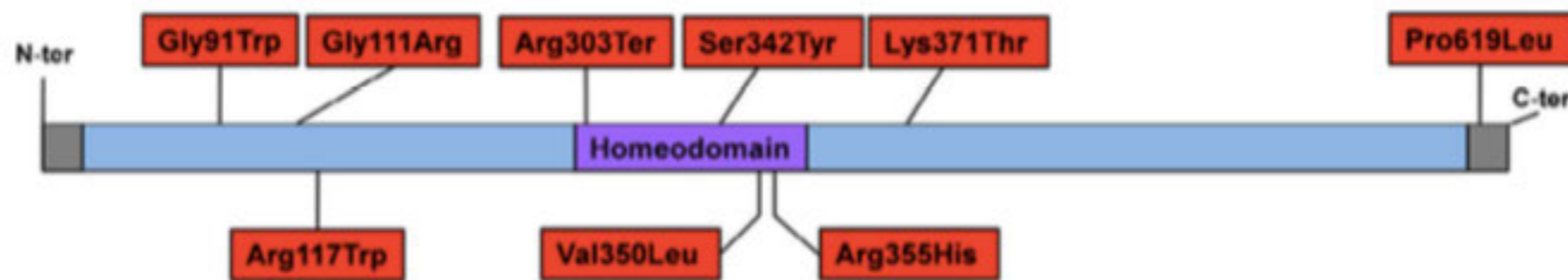


Fig. 4. NOBOX mutations causative of non-syndromic POF.

*BMP15 (GDF9B)*, Xp11.2 chromosome, TGF- $\beta$  superfamily of growth factors - TGF- $\beta$  molecules, BMP, GDF, inhibins, activins...

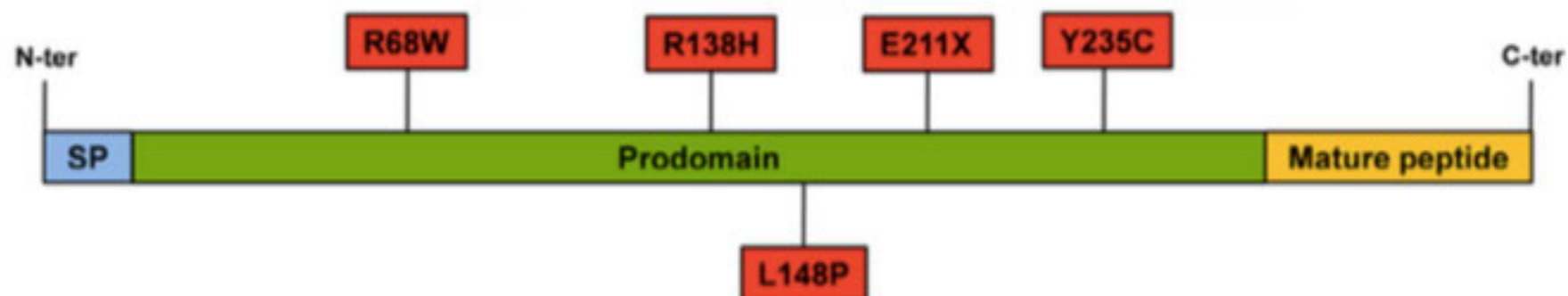
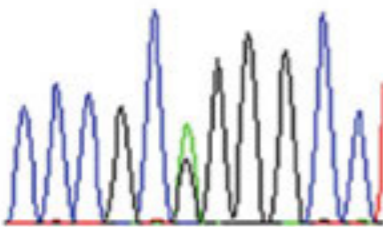
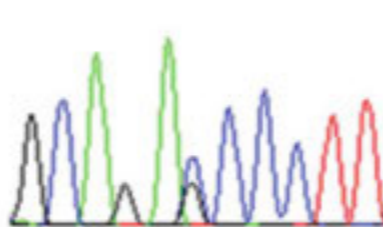
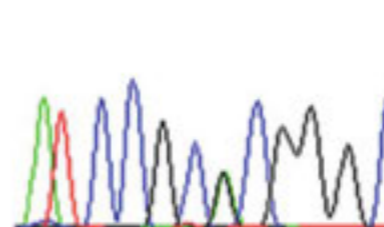


Fig. 5. BMP15 mutations causative of non-syndromic POF.

# AMH mutations with reduced *in vitro* bioactivity are related to premature ovarian insufficiency

**B. Alvaro Mercadal<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup>, R. Imbert<sup>3</sup>, I. Demeestere<sup>1,3</sup>, C. Gervy<sup>4</sup>,  
A. De Leener<sup>5</sup>, Y. Englert<sup>1,3</sup>, S. Costagliola<sup>2</sup>, and A. Delbaere<sup>1,3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Research Laboratory on Human Reproduction, Faculté de Médecine, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium <sup>2</sup>Institut de Recherche Interdisciplinaire en Biologie Humaine et Moléculaire (IRIBHM), Faculté de Médecine, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium <sup>3</sup>Fertility Clinic, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Erasme Hospital, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium <sup>4</sup>Biochemistry Department, Erasme Hospital, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium <sup>5</sup>Department of Medical Genetics, Erasme Hospital, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium

	<b>G264R (G/C) e4 TMP_ESP_19_2250973</b>	<b>D288E (C/G) e5.1 Rs 199831511</b>	<b>R444H (G/A) e5.2</b>
Region	Exon 4 N-terminal <i>CCC G C R G G G C C</i> 1	Exon 5 N-terminal <i>G C A G A S C C C T T C</i>	Exon 5 N-terminal, near cleavage site <i>3 A T C C G C R C G G G C</i>
			
Type of AA change	Glycine: intermediate, non-polar Arginine: hydrophilic, basic	Aspartic acid: hydrophilic, acid Arginine: hydrophilic, basic	Arginine: hydrophilic, basic Histidine: hydrophilic basic
Number of POI patients	1	1	1
Clinical characteristics	Sub-Saharan African Secondary amenorrhea at 30 years old. Family case of 'infertility' after 25 years old (not further investigated)	Caucasian Secondary amenorrhea at 26 years old. Mother with POI at 32 years old, carrier of the AMH variant D288E	Caucasian Secondary amenorrhea at the stop of oral contraceptives at 26 years old Family case of induction of puberty

# Cytoplasmic effects

Increased cytoplasmic fraction of vacuoles;

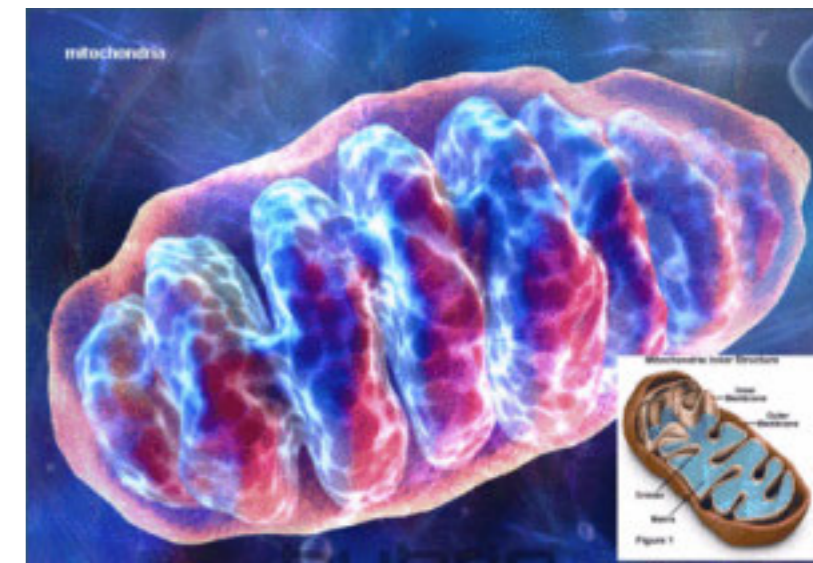
Decrease in the mitochondria fraction;

Increased density of mitochondrial matrix;

Increase of dilated smooth endoplasmic reticulum and Golgi complexes;

Higher frequency of ruptured mitochondrial membranes.

**Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci. 1034: 117–131 (2004).**



# Therapy

Natural cycle

Different stimulation protocols

High doses of gonadotrophins  
([Land et al., 1996](#)),

‘Flare-up’ protocol ([Karande et al., 1997](#))

Agonist-antagonist conversion protocol

Pre/co-treatment

The use of growth hormone or growth hormone-releasing factor ([Howles et al., 1999](#))

Aspirin as adjunct therapie

DHEAs ([Lok et al., 2004](#))

Egg donation

# Therapy

**Expected poor responders on the basis of an antral follicle count do not benefit from a higher starting dose of gonadotrophins in IVF treatment: a randomized controlled trial\***

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**E.R.Klinkert<sup>1,3</sup>, F.J.M.Broekmans<sup>1</sup>, C.W.N.Looman<sup>2</sup>, J.D.F.Habbema<sup>2</sup> and E.R.te Velde<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Reproductive Medicine, University Medical Center Utrecht, Heidelberglaan 100, 3584 CX Utrecht and <sup>2</sup>Department of Public Health, Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, Dr Molewaterplein 50, 3015 GE Rotterdam, The Netherlands

# Therapy

## Comparisons of GnRH antagonist versus GnRH agonist protocol in poor ovarian responders undergoing IVF

Danhua Pu<sup>1,2</sup>, Jie Wu<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, and Jiayin Liu<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, The First Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University, 210029 Nanjing, P of China <sup>2</sup>State Key Laboratory of Reproductive Medicine, Nanjing Medical University, 210029 Nanjing, P

Human Reproduction Vol.20, No.3 pp. 616–621, 2005

Advance Access publication December 17, 2004

doi:10.1093

## GnRH antagonist versus long GnRH agonist protocol in poor responders undergoing IVF: a randomized controlled trial

Lai-Ping Cheung<sup>1,2</sup>, Po-Mui Lam<sup>1</sup>, Ingrid Hung Lok<sup>1</sup>, Tony Tak-Yu Chiu<sup>1</sup>, Sum-Yee Yeung<sup>1</sup>, Ching-Ching Tjer<sup>1</sup> and Christopher John Haines<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Prince of Wales Hospital, Shatin, Hong Kong SAR, China

No difference

the number of oocytes retrieved,

the number of mature oocytes retrieved, the

CCR and CPR between GnRH-ant and GnRH-a protocols

Human Reproduction, Vol.26, No.10 pp. 2742–2749, 2011

# Short Antagonist Protocol

**Antagonist**  
(Ganirelix/ Cetrotide/Orgalutron)

**FSH**(Follistim/  
Gonal-F/  
Puregon)

Day 6-8

Menses

hCG 10,000U  
Ovidrel 500mcg

## Short Agonist (Micro) “Flare” Protocol

Agonist (Lupron/  
Buserelin)

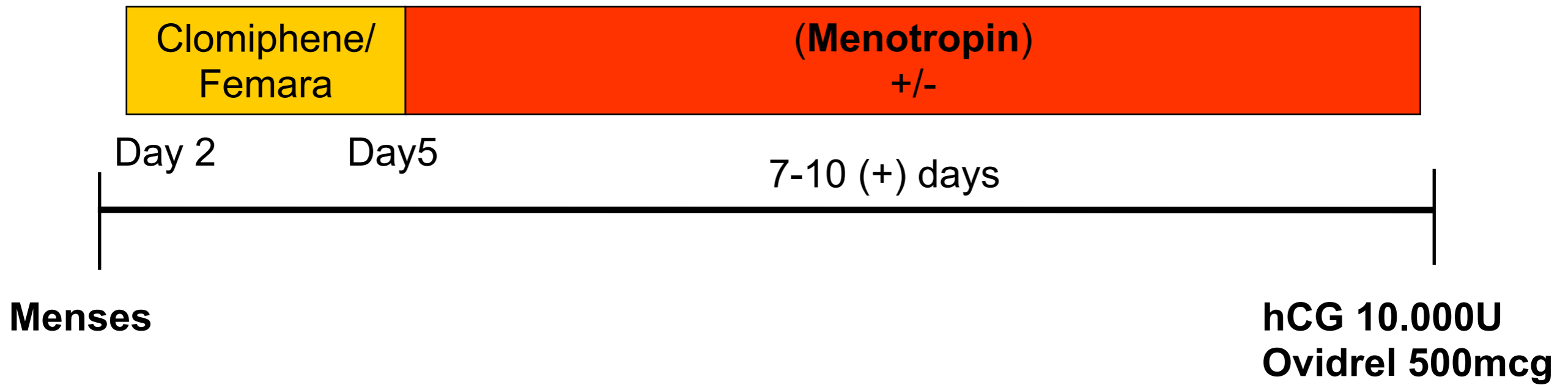
7-14(+) days

FSH(Follistim/  
Gonal-F/  
Puregon)

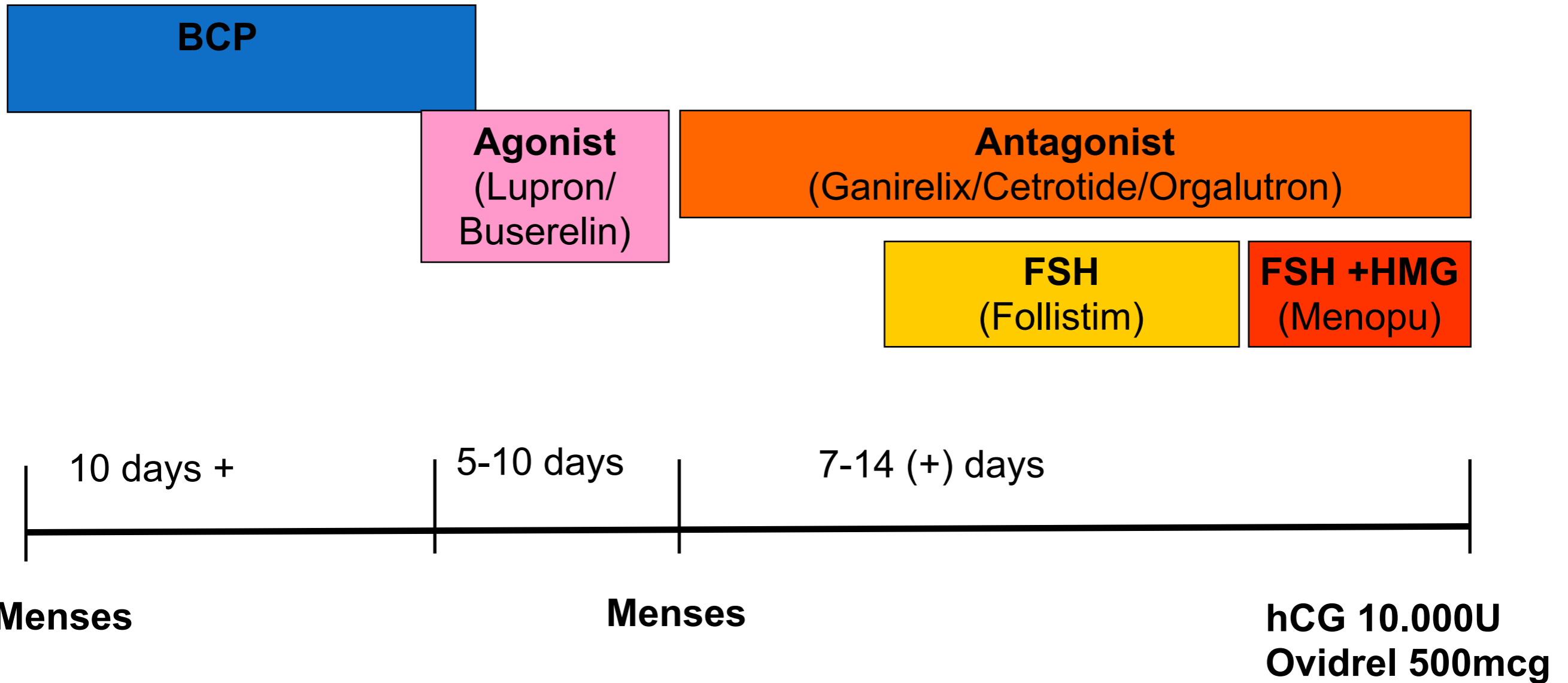
Spontaneous  
Menstruation

hCG 10,000U  
Ovidrel 500mcg

# Mini-IVF / EZ-IVF

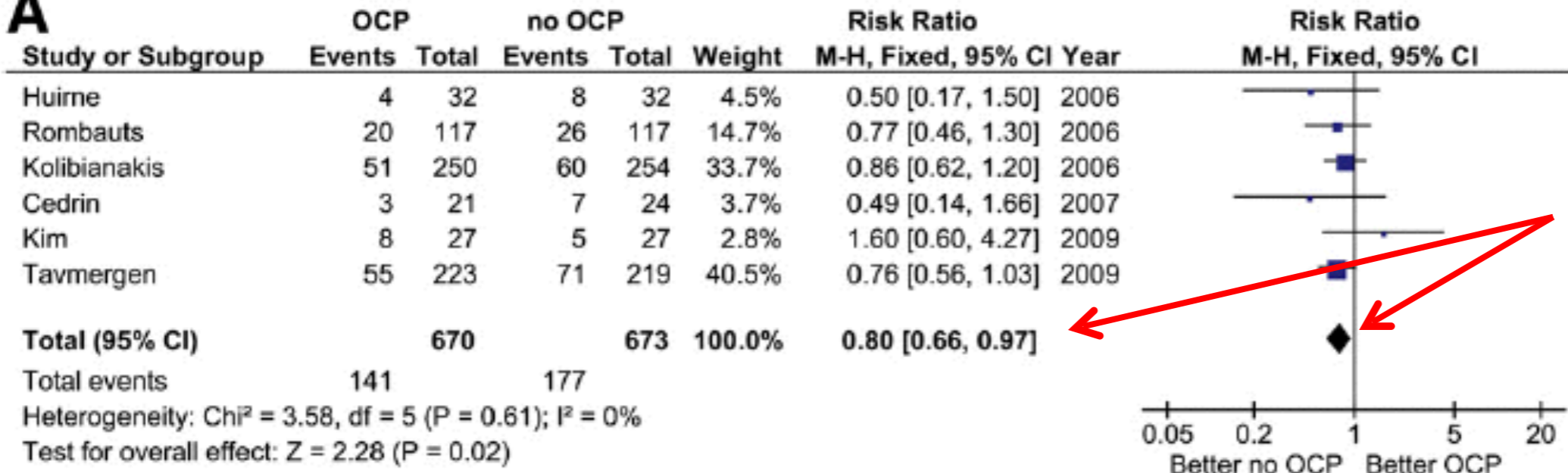


# Agonist/ Antagonist Conversion



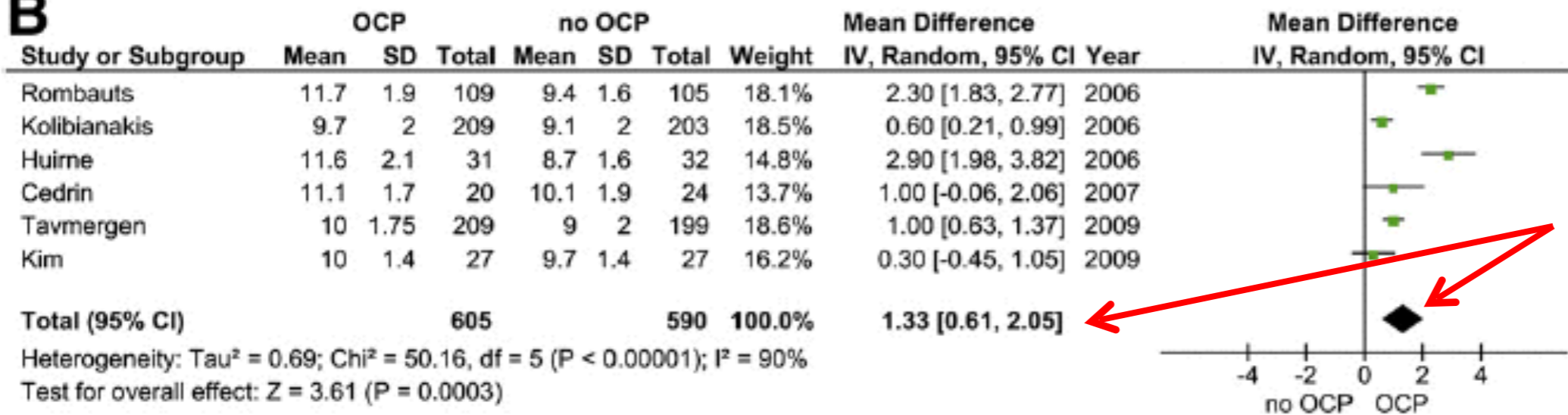
# Oral contraceptive pretreatment

**A**



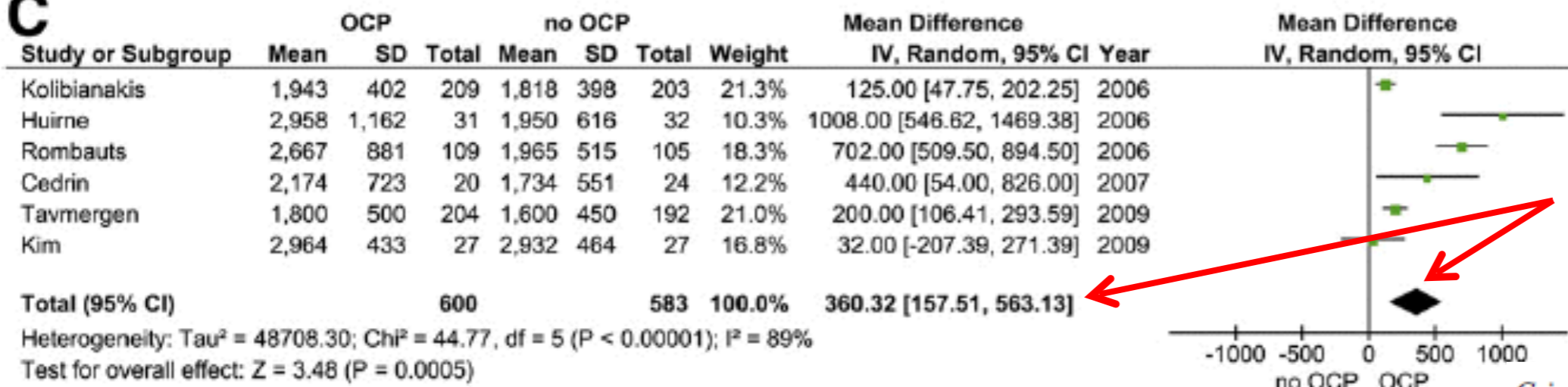
Pregnancy  
RR 0.80

**B**



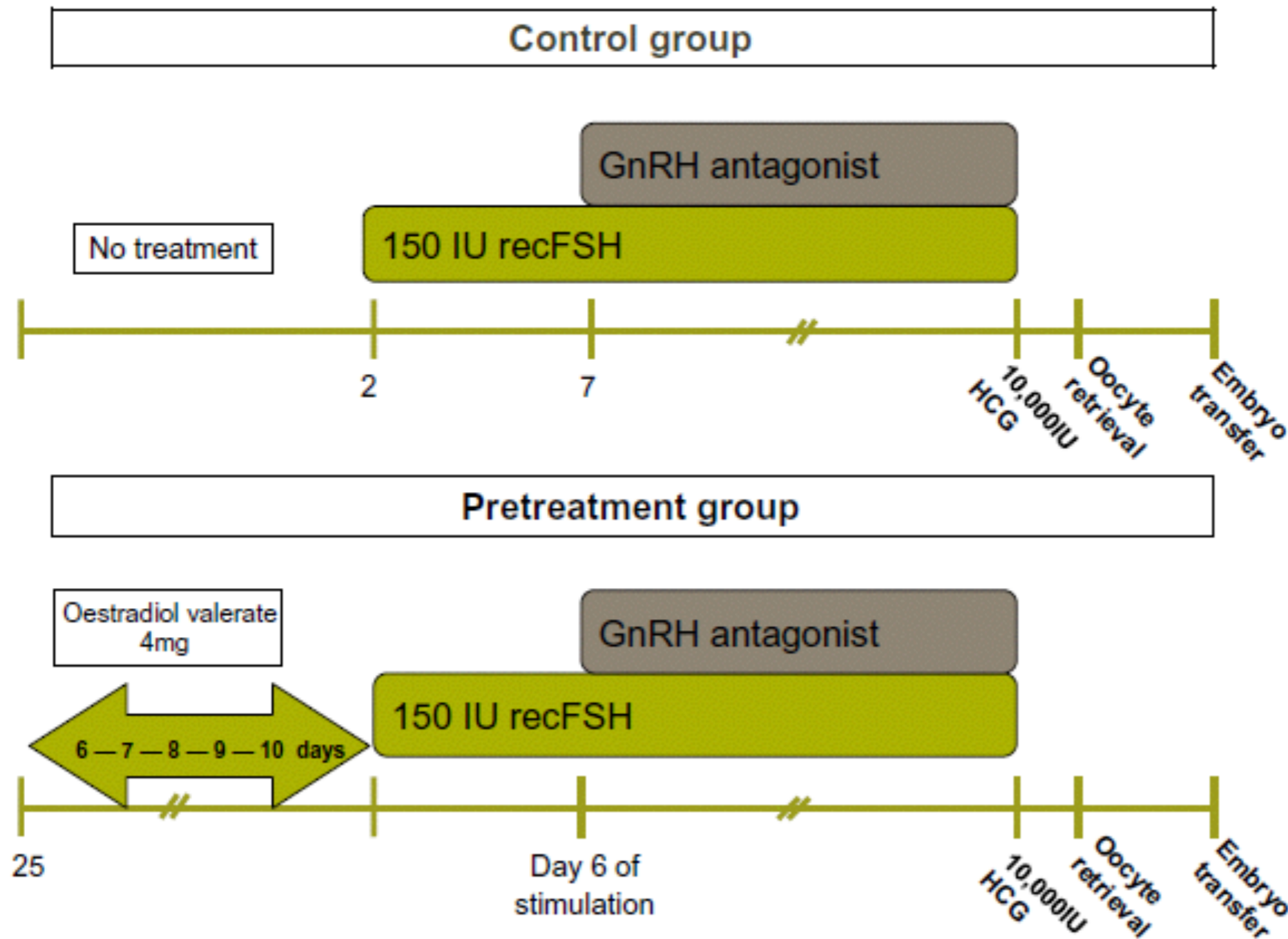
Duration  
WMD 1.33 day

**C**



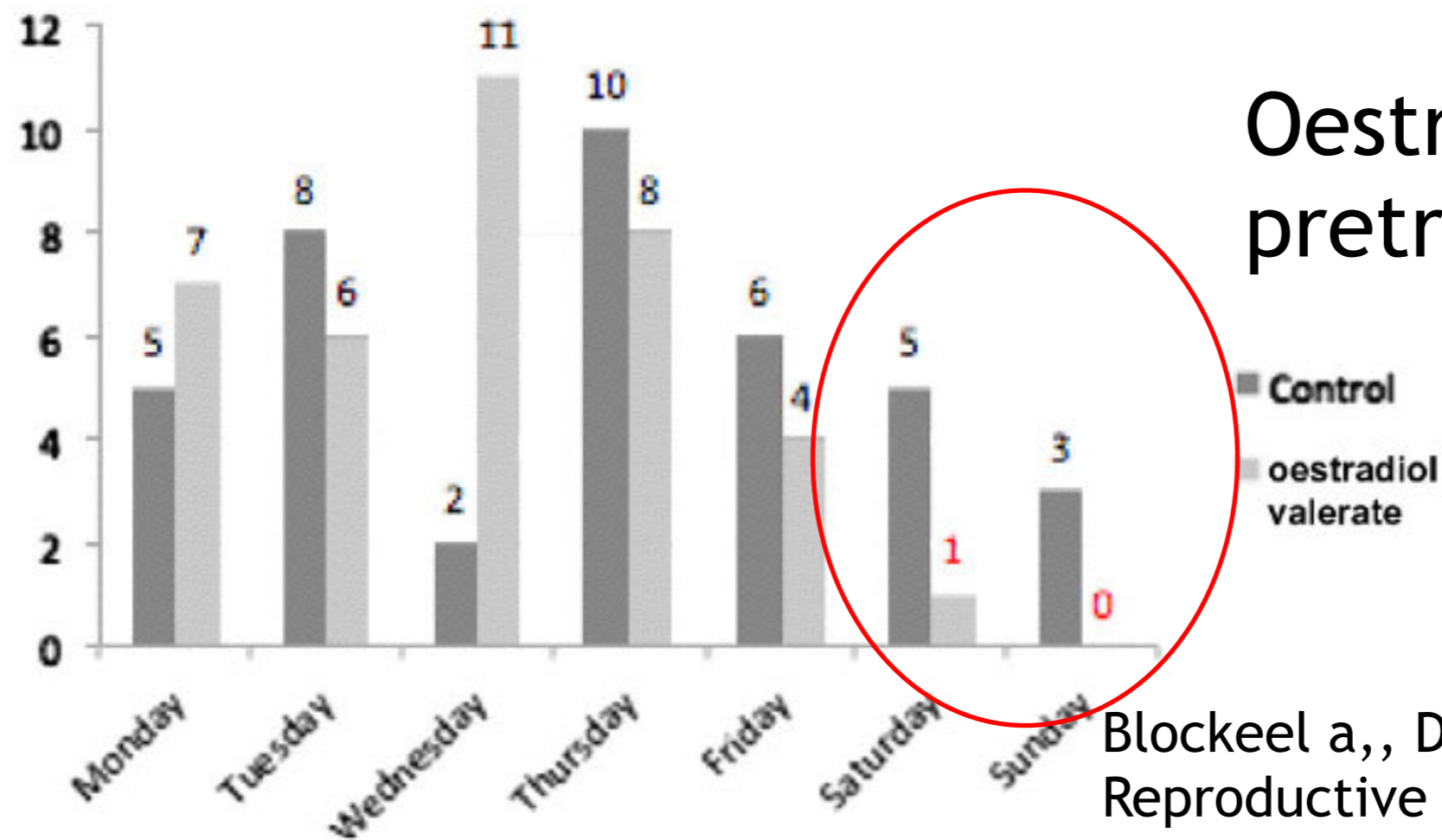
Stimulation  
WMD 360 IU

# Oestradiol valerate pretreatment in GnRH-antagonist cycles: a randomized controlled trial



Scheduling

	Control group	Pretreatment group	Between-group difference (%)
Patients undergoing oocyte retrieval during a weekend day (primary end point)	8/39 (20.5)	1/37 (2.7)	-17.8 (-31.5 to -4.1) <sup>a</sup>
Positive HCG			
Per started cycle	20/42 (47.6)	19/44 (43.2)	-4.4 (-25.5 to 16.6)
Per retrieval	20/39 (51.3)	19/37 (51.4)	0.1 (-22.4 to 22.6)
Per embryo transfer	20/37 (54.1)	19/35 (54.3)	0.2 (-22.8 to 23.3)
Outcome for patients with positive HCG test			
Biochemical pregnancy	2/20 (10.0)	1/19 (5.3)	-4.7 (-21.3 to 11.8)
Miscarriage	2/20 (10.0)	1/19 (5.3)	-4.7 (-21.3 to 11.8)
Clinical pregnancy	16/20 (80.0)	17/19 (89.5)	9.5 (12.8 to 31.8)
Clinical pregnancy rate			
Per started cycle	16/42 (38.1)	17/44 (38.6)	0.5 (-20.0 to 21.1)
Per retrieval	16/39 (41.0)	17/37 (45.9)	4.9 (-17.4 to 27.2)
Per embryo transfer	16/37 (43.2)	17/35 (48.6)	5.4 (-17.7 to 28.3)

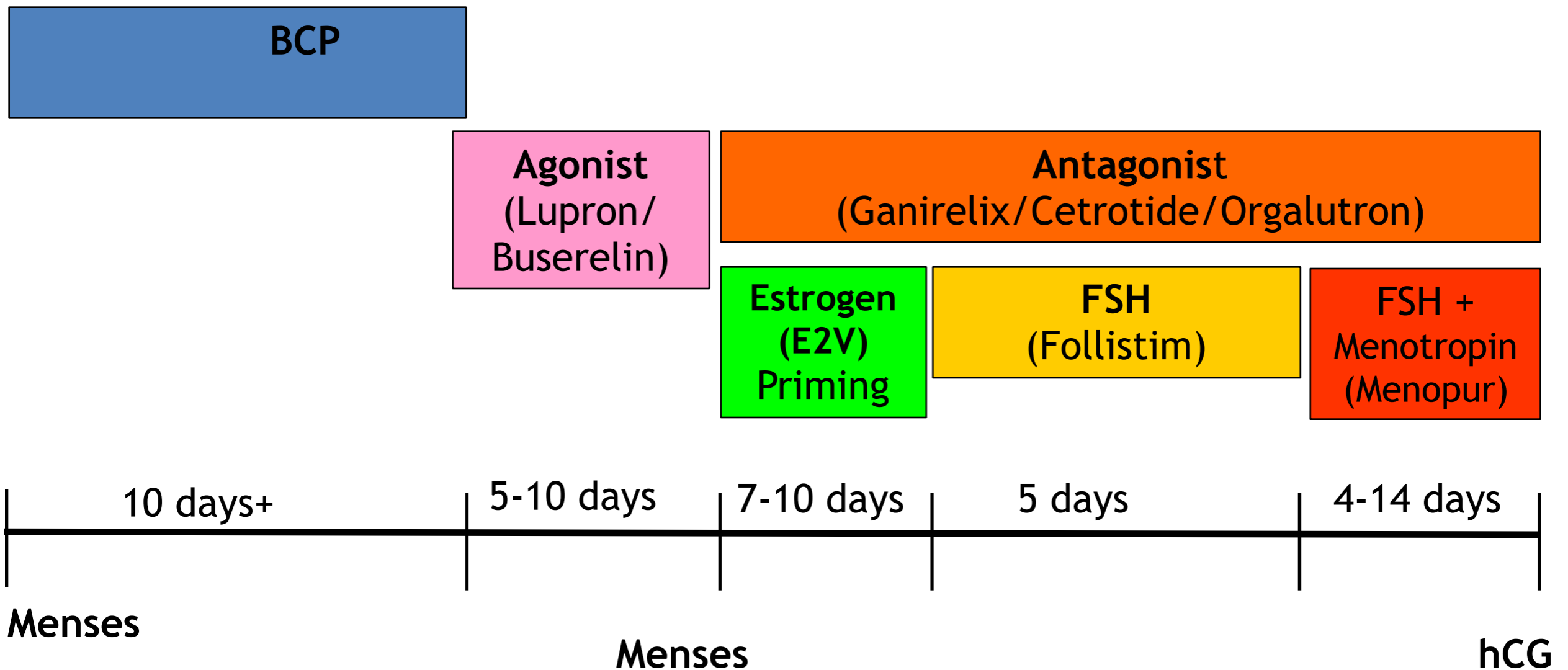


Oestradiol valerate pretreatment

Scheduling

# POF; Low response

## Agonist/ Antagonist Conversion with Estrogen Priming (A/ACP+ E2V)



## Effect of estrogen priming through luteal phase and stimulation phase in poor responders in in-vitro fertilization

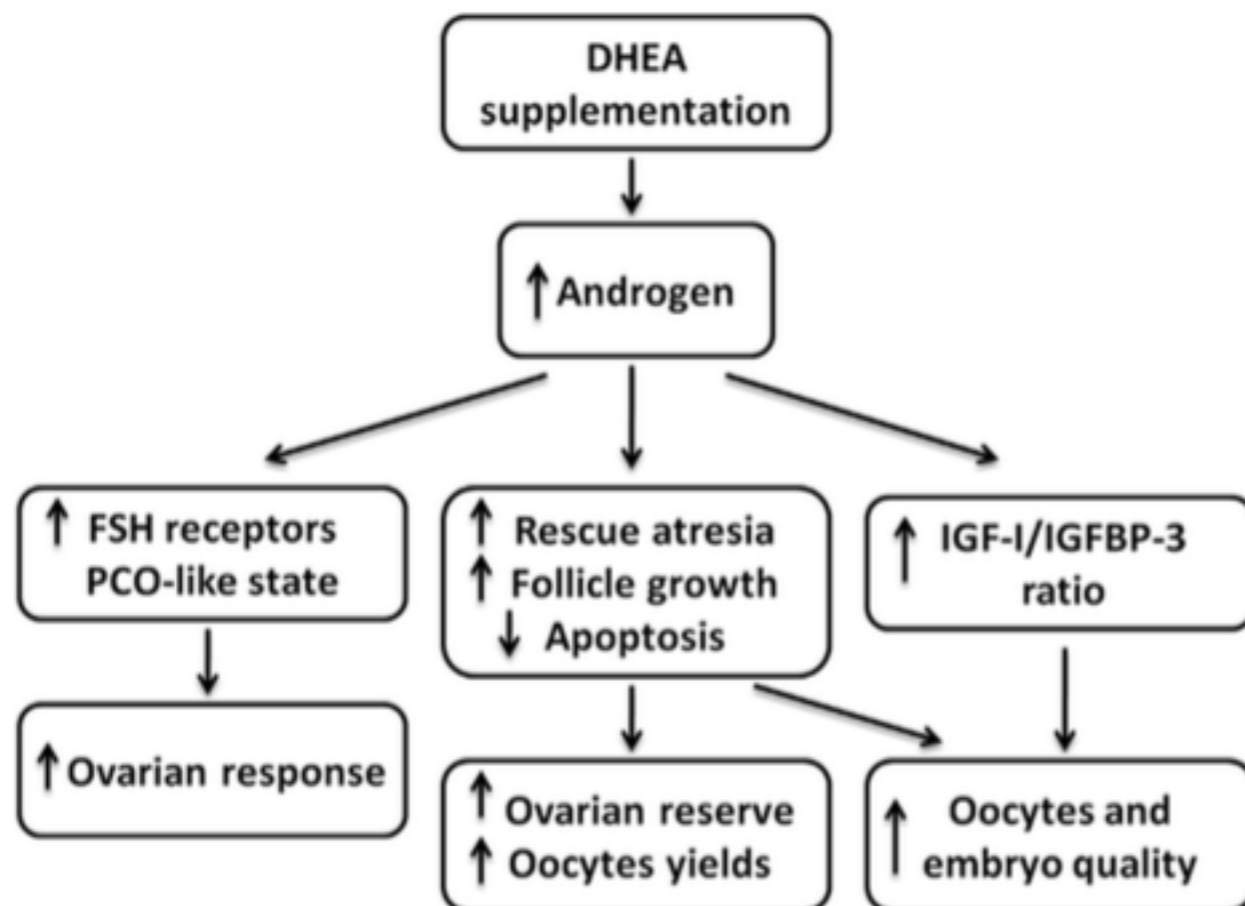
Eun Mi Chang • Ji Eun Han • Hyung Jae Won •  
You Shin Kim • Tae Ki Yoon • Woo Sik Lee

Variable	Luteal E <sub>2</sub> group ( <i>n</i> =86)	Standard GnRH antagonist group ( <i>n</i> =69)	P value
Cancellation rate	15.1%	37.7%	.002
Implantation rate	19.3%	8.7%	.020
Pregnancy rate per ET	37.0%	16.3%	.021
Clinical pregnancy rate per ET	30.1%	11.6%	.024
Ongoing pregnancy rate per ET	24.7%	9.3%	.051

Original Article

## Effects of dehydroepiandrosterone supplementation on women with poor ovarian response: A preliminary report and review

Kuan-Hao Tsui <sup>a, b, c, d</sup>, Li-Te Lin <sup>b, c, e</sup>, Renin Chang <sup>f</sup>, Ben-Shian Huang <sup>c, g</sup>,  
Jiin-Tsuey Cheng <sup>a, \*\*</sup>, Peng-Hui Wang <sup>c, g, h, i, j, \*</sup>



### Effects of DHEA

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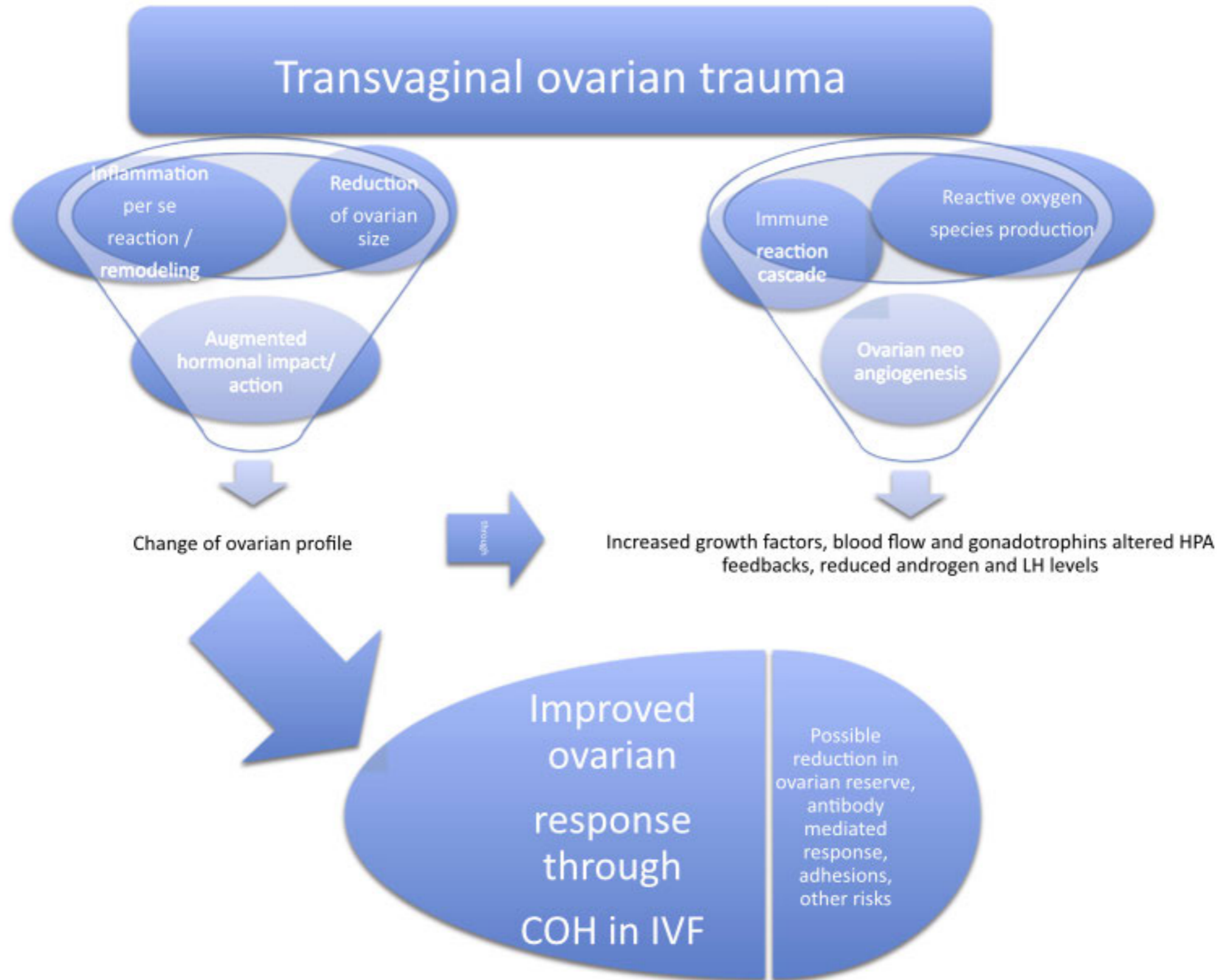
#### Primary effects

- Improvement in ovarian reserve
- Improvement in ovarian response
- Improvement in oocytes and embryo yields
- Improvement in oocytes and embryo quality
- Reduction in aneuploid embryos

#### Secondary effects

- Improvement in pregnancy rates of IVF
- Improvement in spontaneous pregnancies
- Reduction in miscarriage rates
- Improvement in live birth rates of IVF
- Reduction in cancellation of IVF

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**RESEARCH**

**Open Access**

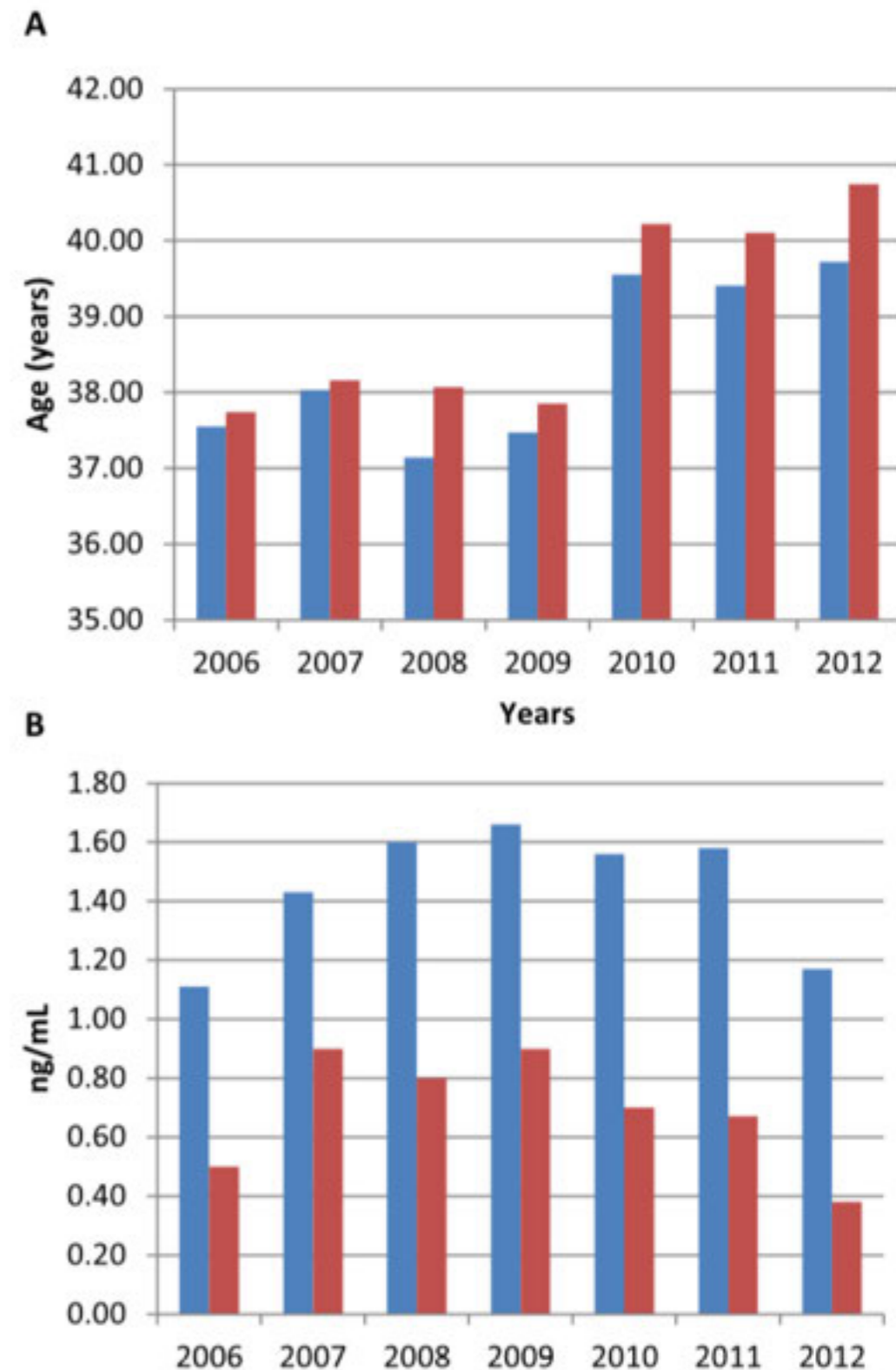
# The “graying” of infertility services: an impending revolution nobody is ready for

Norbert Gleicher<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Vitaly A Kushnir<sup>1</sup>, Andrea Weghofer<sup>1,3</sup> and David H Barad<sup>1,2</sup>

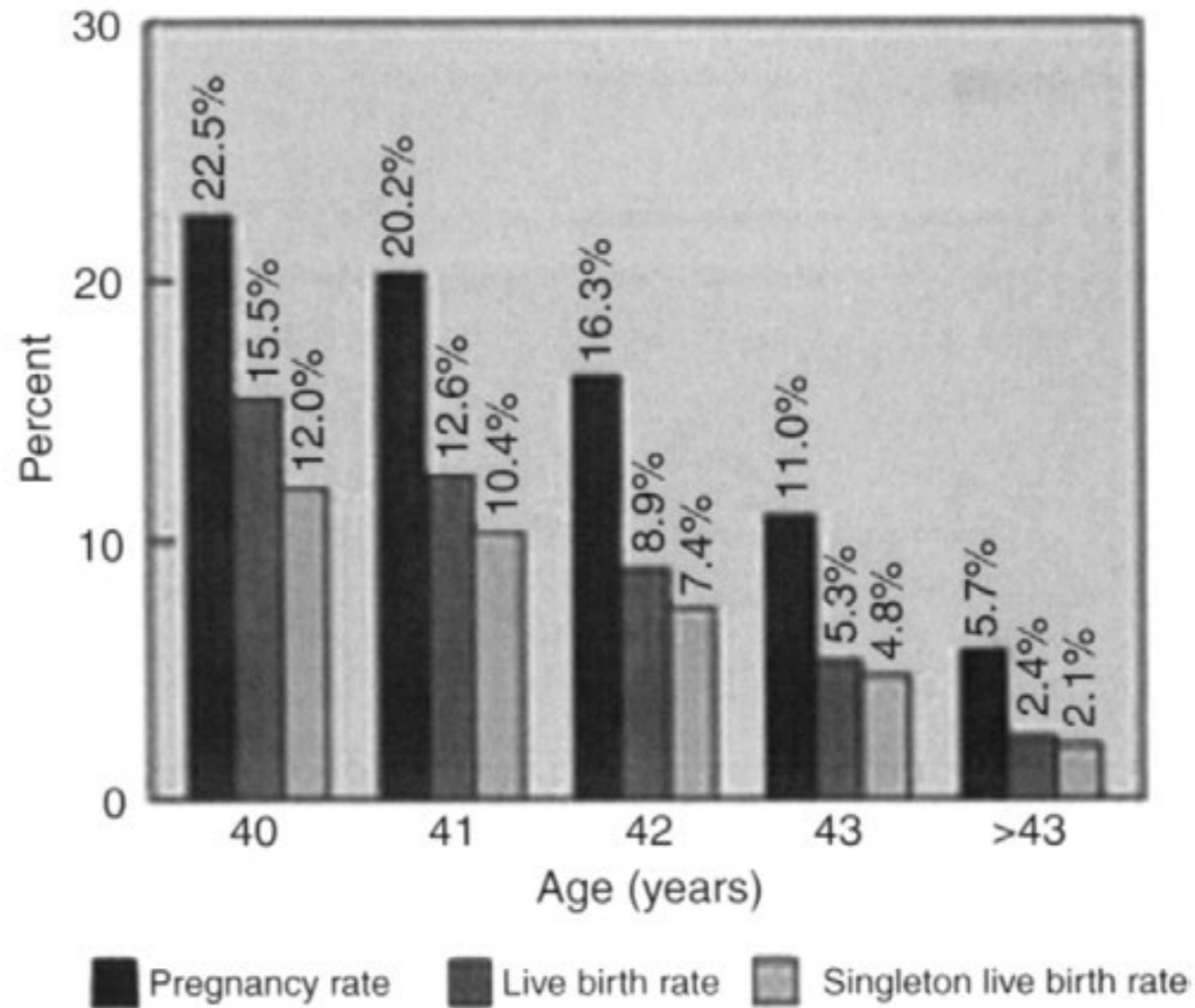
**Table 1 Our center’s 2010 - 2012 age-specific clinical IVF outcome data by “intent to treat”\*/\*\* for women 40 years and older**

Age (years)	47%	Live birth rate (%)	Clinical pregnancy rate (%) if different
40		15.4	
41		42.9	
42		6.3	18.8
43		0.0	16.7
44		1.4	5.4
45		2.7	5.4
46-53		0.0	

\*“Intent to treat” reflects denominator of per cycle start for each age group.



# ART outcome for 40 and older



\*For consistency, all rates are based on cycles started.

# Mitochondria

Quality-compromised oocytes - mitochondrial dysfunctions

Infertility,

Reduced blastocyst cell number

Embryo loss

Developmental disorders and diseases:

neurological diseases

diabetes

cancer

immune system

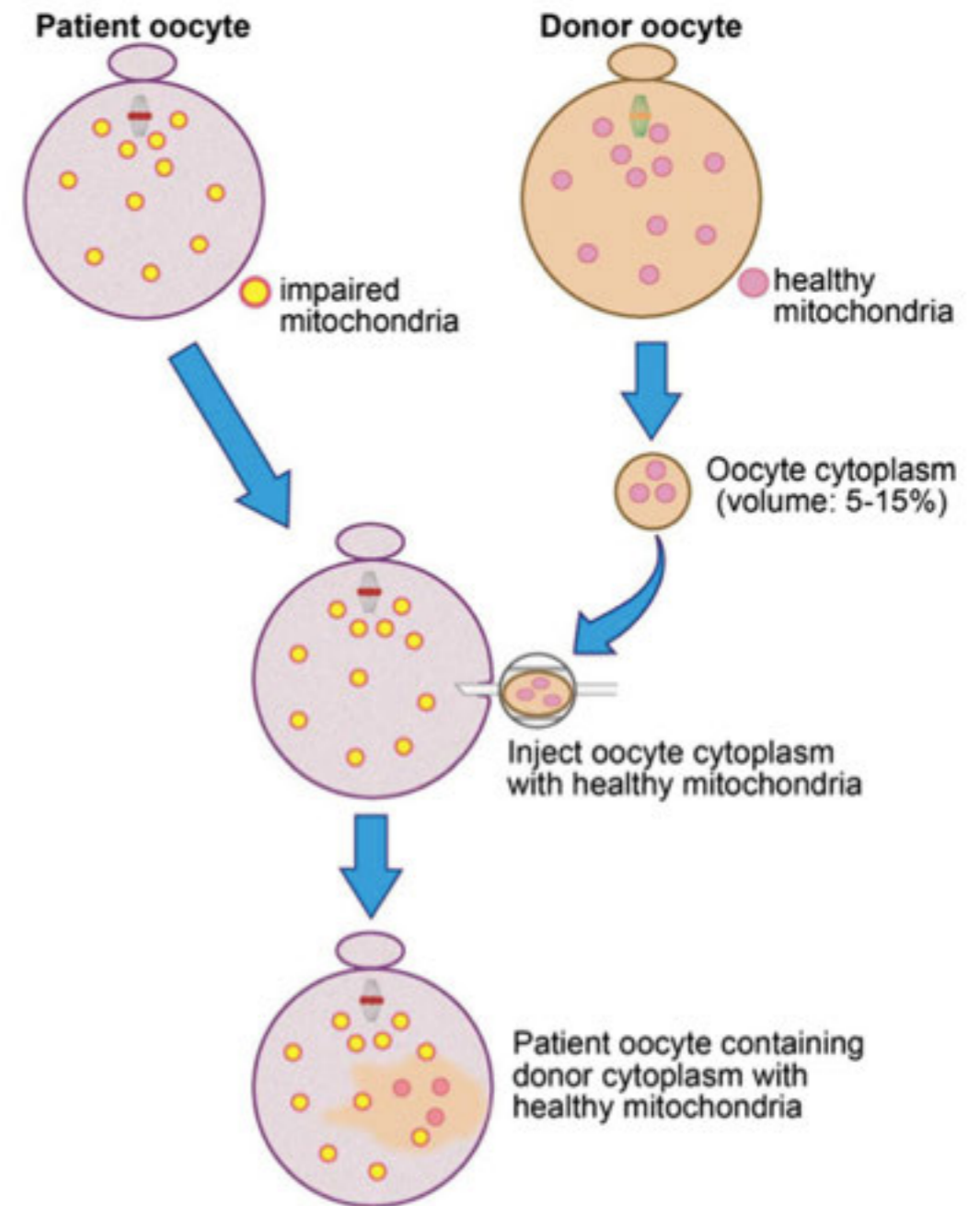
aging

# Mitochondria - Ooplasmic transfer

Clinical protocol using the oocyte cytoplasm extracted from a young donor that was transferred into the eggs of the recipient woman.

Mitochondrial heteroplasmy

13 pregnancies, two fetuses were karyotypically 45, XO

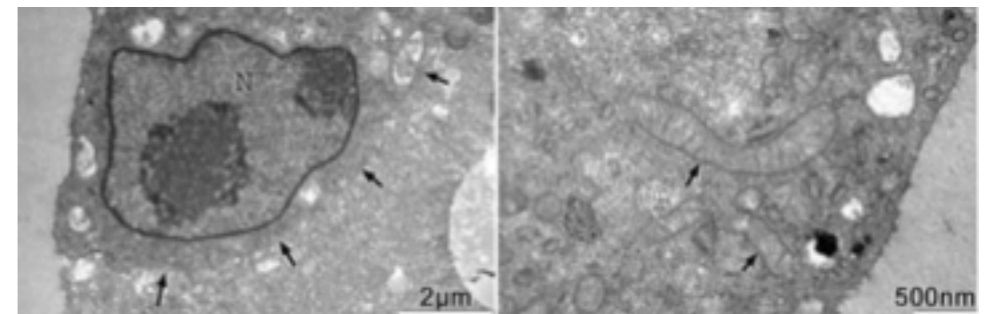


16. Smeets HJM: Preventing the transmission of mitochondrial DNA disorders: Selecting the good guys or kicking out the bad guys. *Reprod BioMed Online* 2013, 27:599–610.
17. Amato P, Tachibana M, Sparman M, Mitalipov: Three-parent in vitro fertilization: gene replacement for the prevention of inherited mitochondrial diseases. *Fertil Steril* 2014, 101(1):31–35.
18. Mitalipov S, Wolf DP: Clinical and ethical implications of mitochondrial gene transfer. *Trends Endocrinol Metab* 2014, 25(1):5–7.

Three parent child - Yabuuchi et al. 2012

# Three-parent in vitro fertilization

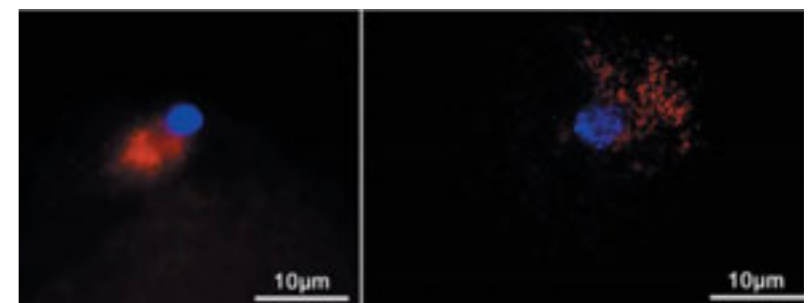
**GV or the MII** spindle into an enucleated donor egg.



Mitochondria locate near the donor nucleus and disperse into the cytoplasm in developing embryos with heteroplasmy as observed up to the blastocyst stages. From Zhong et al. 2014.

Patient's egg containing abnormal mitochondria is fertilized

At zygote stage - **Pronuclei** transferred to an enucleated donor egg.



The recipient oocyte is enucleated by removing the MII spindle;

Donor oocyte is fertilized and the second **polar body** is removed and then transferred to the recipient oocyte

# AUGMENT

autologous germ-line mitochondrial energy transfer

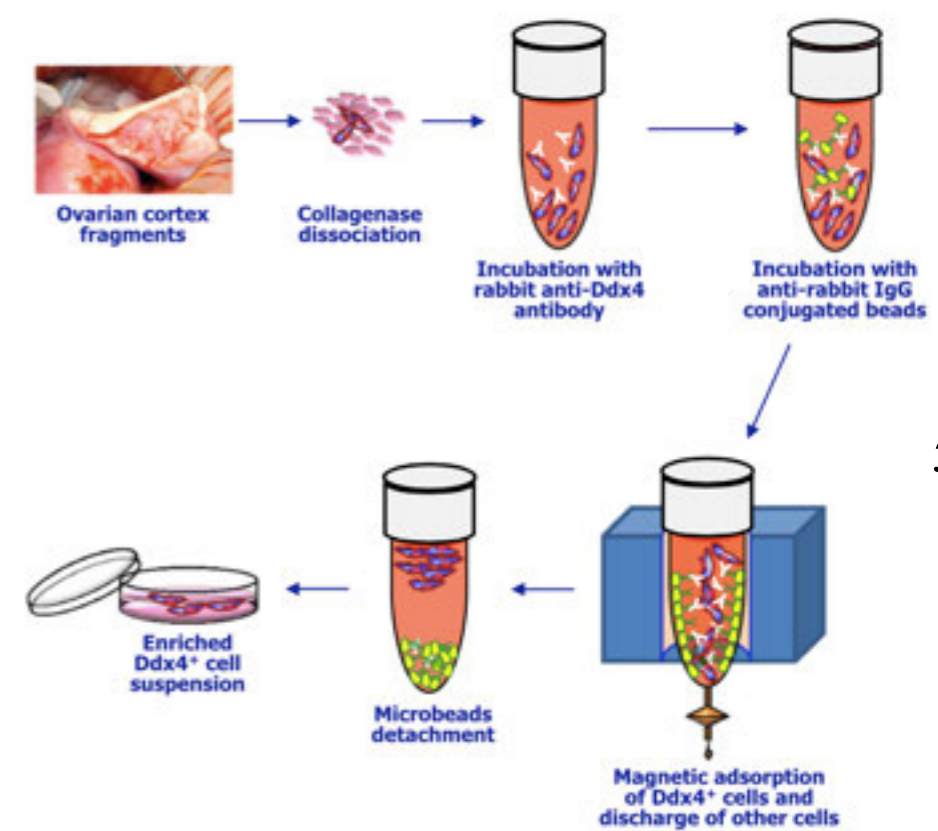
Autologous germline-derived cytoplasmic extract or purified mitochondria bioenergetics reinforcement of oocytes.



# Perspective: the ovarian stem cells

Silvestris et

5

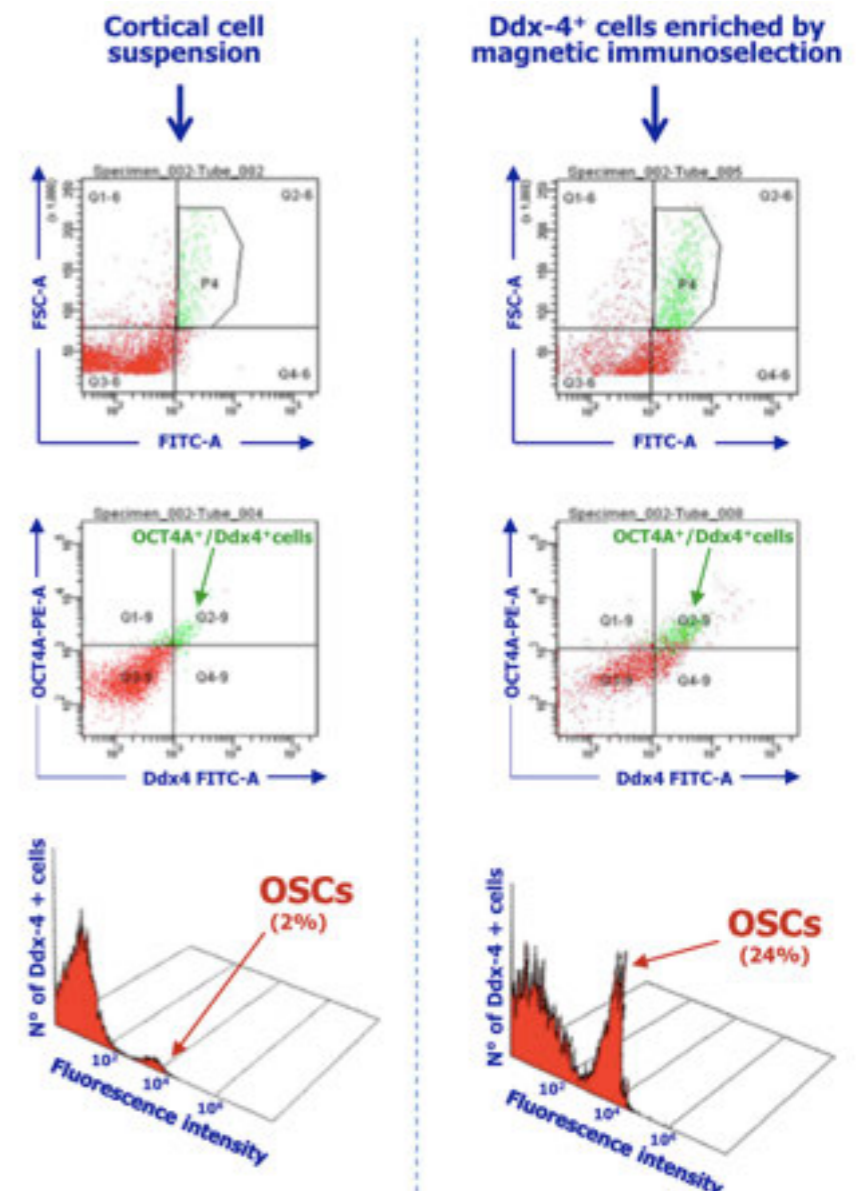


**No renewable germinal OSCs** - numerically fixed pool of oocytes are committed for the fertility.  
1951 Zuckerman.

**Mitotically active OSCs** in both juvenile and adult murine ovaries capable to warranty both oocyte and follicle availability after birth, Tilly and co-workers.

**Isolate and culture germinal OSCs** in mammals,  
Zou

**Very small embryonic-like stem cells (VSELs)** and germinal OSCs within the ovarian surface epithelium (OSE) of adult mammals



Zuckerman S. Rec Prog Horm Res. 1951;6:63–108.

Zou Nature Cell Biology. 2009;11:631–50.

## Molecular markers differentially expressed by OSCs and oocytes.

Ovarian stem cells	Oocytes
Ddx-4 (cell membrane and cytoplasm)	Ddx-4 (cytoplasm)
SSEA-4 (cell membrane and cytoplasm)	SSEA-4 (cytoplasm)
OCT-4 A and B	OCT-4 B
c-kit	c-kit
DAZL (nucleus and cytoplasm)	DAZL (cytoplasm)
Fragilis	ZP (zona pellucida proteins)
CD133	GDF-9 (growth differentiation factor 9)
Stella	NOBOX (newborn ovary hemeobox protein)
Nanog	SCP-3 (synaptonemal complex protein 3)
Sox-2	
Blimp-1	

# Role of mesenchymal stem cell therapy in restoring ovarian function in a rat model of chemotherapy-induced ovarian failure: a histological and immunohistochemical study

Noha M. Afifi<sup>a</sup> and Olfat N. Reyad<sup>b</sup>

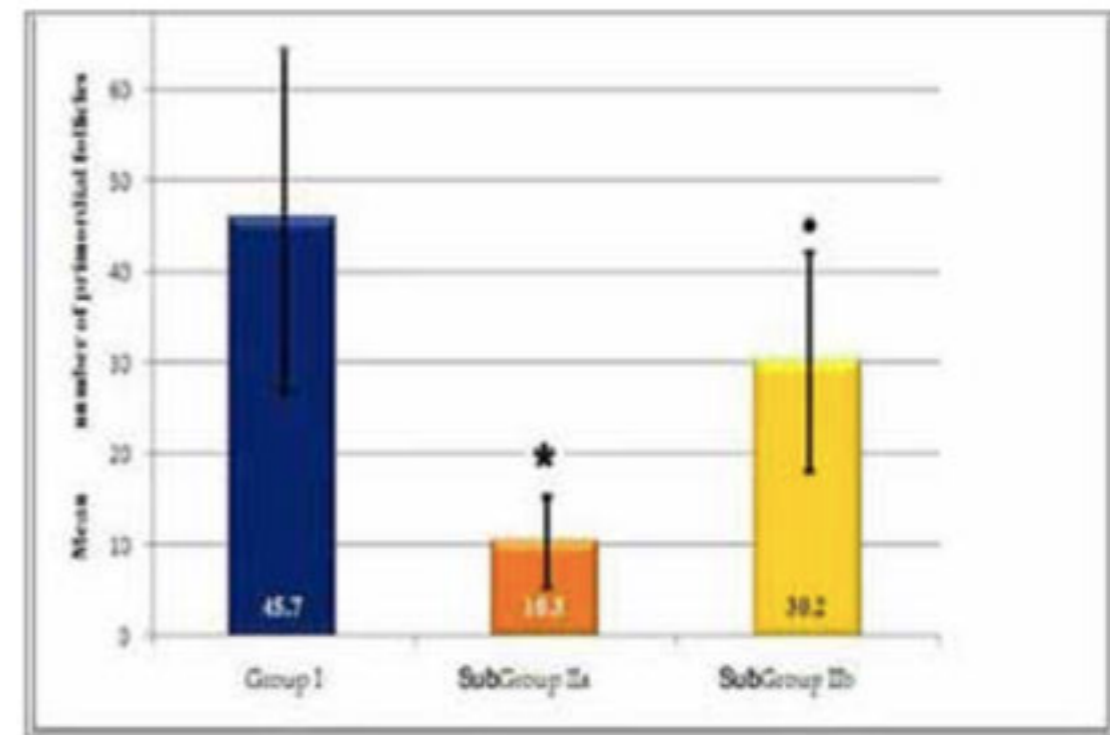
The Egyptian Journal of Histology, 2013, 36:114-126 11 (1350-2013)

**Table 1. Mean values  $\pm$  SD of hormone levels in the groups studied after the 1-month period of cyclophosphamide treatment**

Group	Estradiol (pg/ml)	FSH (mIU/ml)	LH (mIU/ml)
Group I (control)	30 $\pm$ 0.42	3.9 $\pm$ 0.02	18.3 $\pm$ 2.24
Subgroup IIa (OF nontreated)	14 $\pm$ 2.36*	29.3 $\pm$ 4.45*	39.1 $\pm$ 4.55*
Subgroup IIb (OF+MSC)	23 $\pm$ 3.39*	7.7 $\pm$ 0.21*	21.3 $\pm$ 2.43*

**Table 2. Mean number of primordial follicles  $\pm$  SD in the ovarian sections**

Group	Mean $\pm$ SD
Group I	45.7 $\pm$ 12.3
Subgroup IIa	10.3 $\pm$ 2.6*
Subgroup IIb	30.2 $\pm$ 10.4*



**Histogram 1.** Mean number of primordial follicles in the ovarian sections. \*Significant compared with group I ( $P < 0.05$ ). \*Significant compared with subgroup IIa ( $P < 0.05$ ).

# Stem cell therapy - in vitro

## Induced female embryonic stem cells

Primordial germ cell–like cells (PGCLCs) utilized to reconstitute ovaries.

Transplantation under the ovarian bursa of adult mice

PGCLCs - oocyte formation.

Metaphase II, fertilized, two-cell embryos,

transferred into foster mothers,

pups able to reach adulthood

Hayashi K, et al, Offspring from oocytes derived from in vitro primordial germ cell–like cells in mice.

Science. 2012;338:971–5.

**EDITORIAL**

**Open Access**

# Novel methods of treating ovarian infertility in older and POF women, testicular infertility, and other human functional diseases

Antonin Bukovsky

Transfer of **mononuclear cells** by a small blood volume replacement form young fertile women

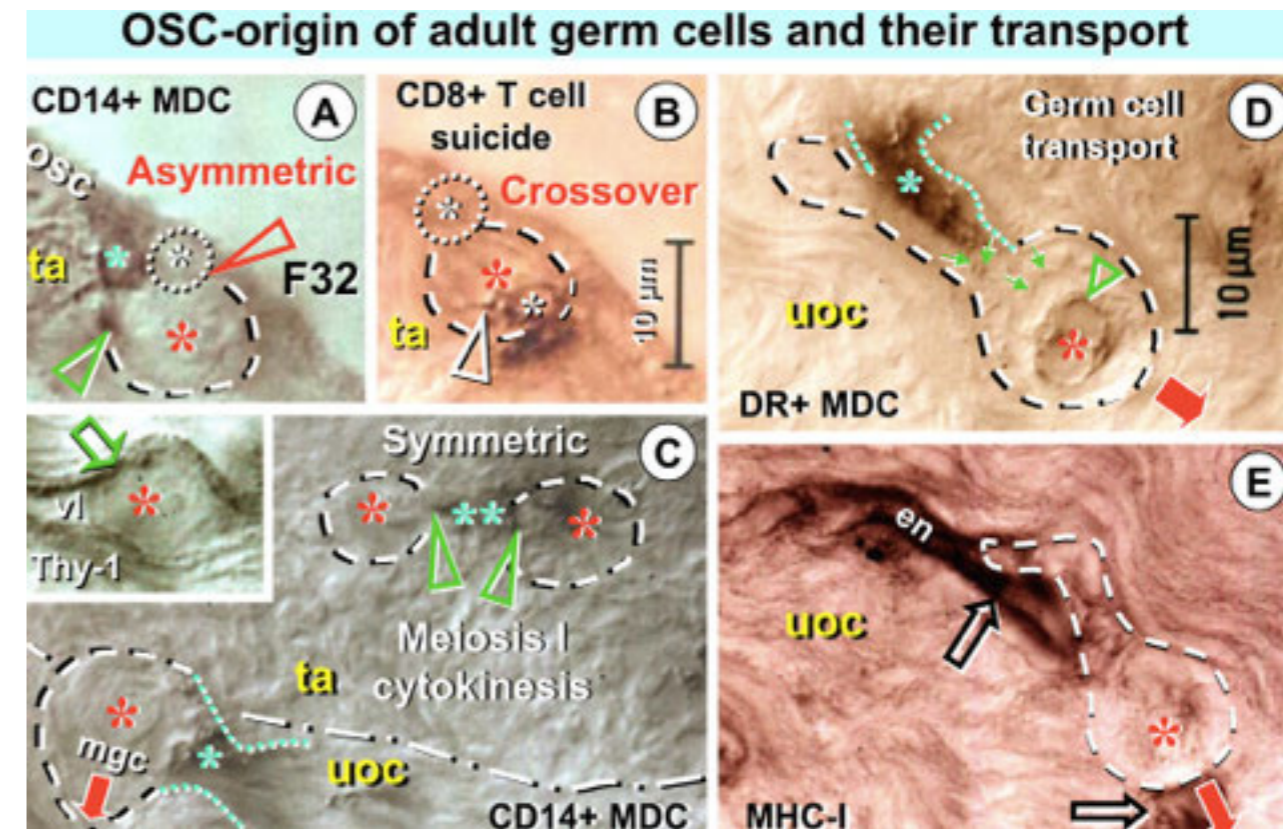
Temporary rejuvenation of the immune, ovarian, and endocrine systems.

The plasma content of **immune components** in the blood, e.g., antibodies, eliminate persisting follicles with aged oocytes unsuitable for IVF.

Mononuclear cell content cause **follicular renewal** consisting of fresh autologous oocytes and granulosa cells.

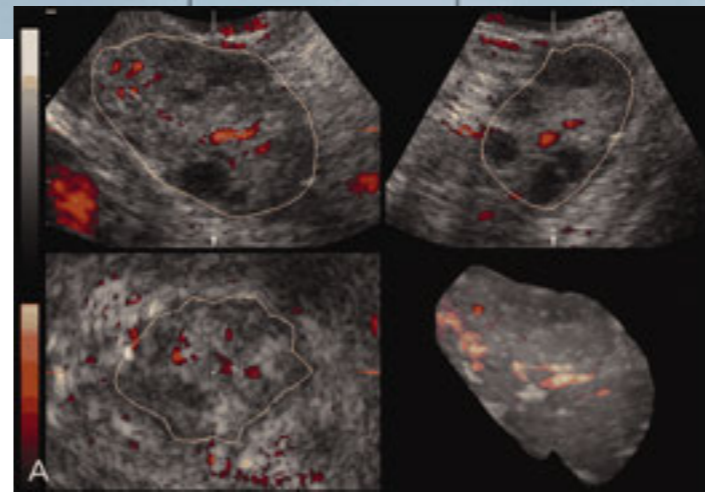
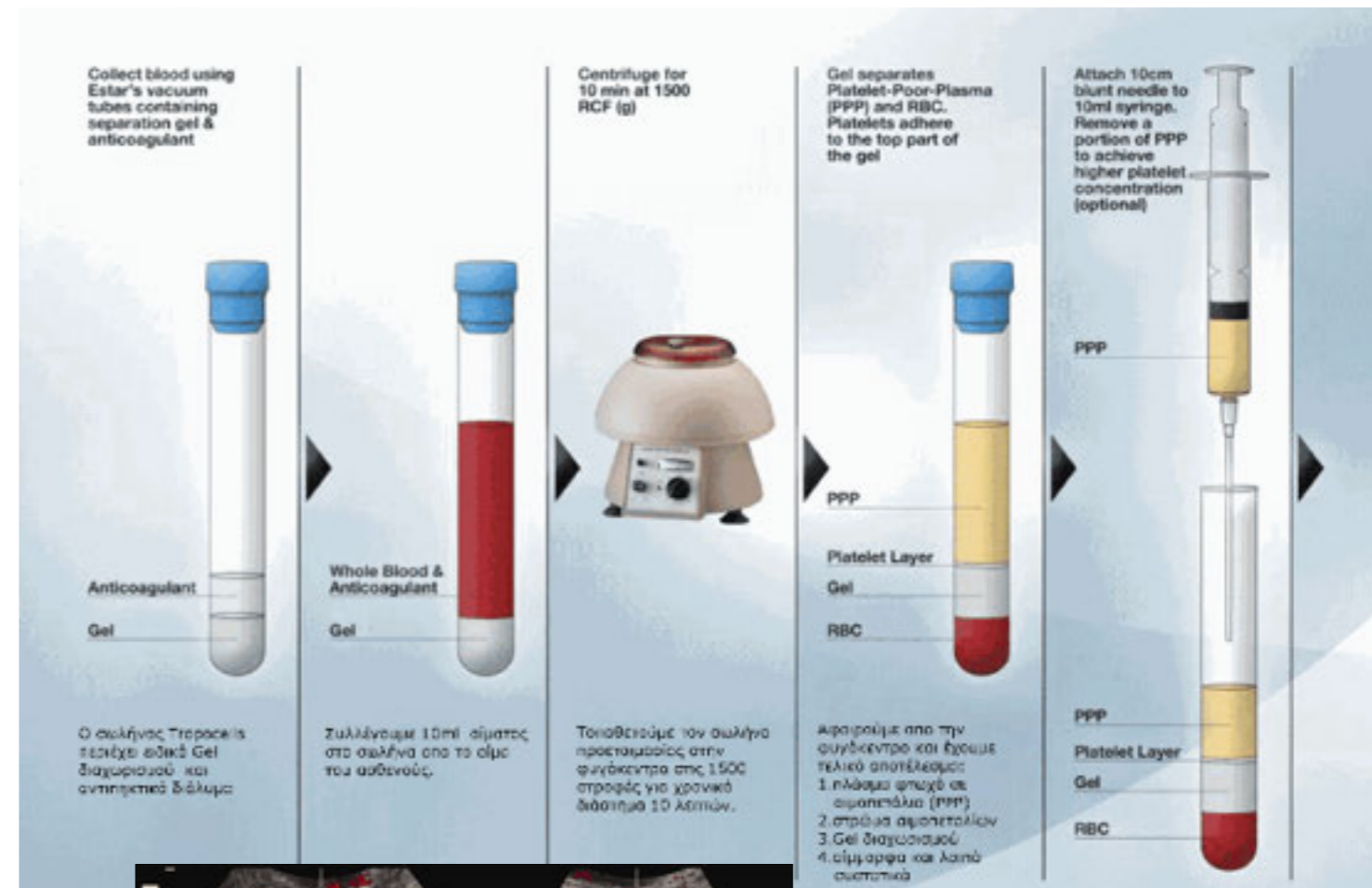
# Systemic treatment of ovarian infertility by a small blood volume replacement or separated mononuclear cells from young healthy fertile donor women

- A) Simple small blood volume replacement
- B) Transfusion of separated mononuclear cells
- C) Transfusion of separated mononuclear cells and blood plasma



# Ovarian rejuvenation

- Growth factors
- Immunotherapy



# Ovarian rejuvenation techniques

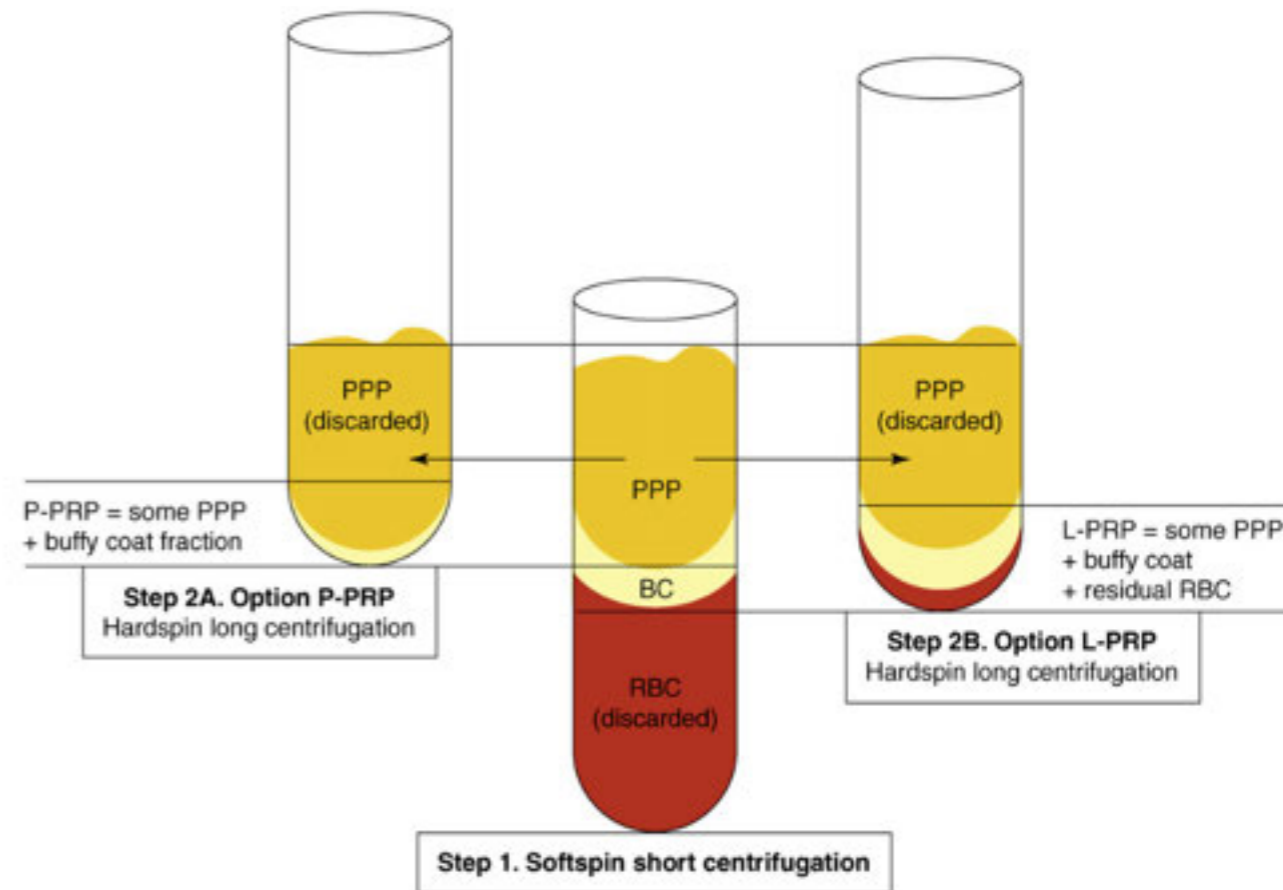
Blood is collected with anticoagulant  
- processed by centrifugation (1-2h).

A first centrifugation - three layers,  
RBCs, PPP, 'buffy coat'

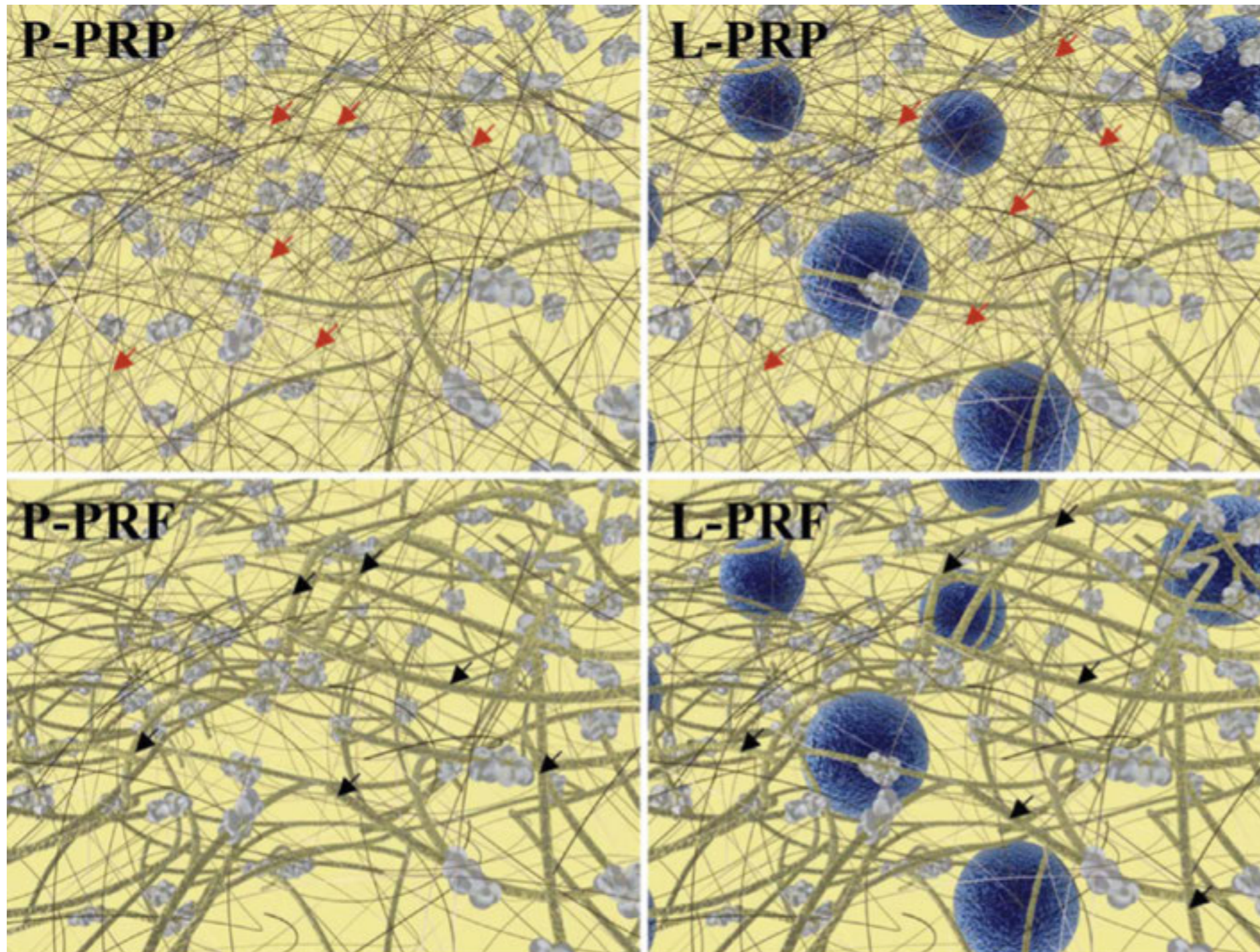
The next steps discard RBC and PPP  
to collect only the 'buffy coat' layer.

Platelet concentrate activated  
(thrombin and/or calcium chloride).

US guided subcortical intraovarian  
application (40 seconds)



# L PRP



# Ovarian rejuvenation

## Growth factors and cytokines

Mechanisms	Growth factors and cytokines
Proinflammatory cytokines	IL1, IL6, and TNF-alpha [26, 27]
Growth factors	Platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) [36], transforming growth factor (TGF)-beta, platelet-derived epidermal growth factor (PDEGF), platelet-derived angiogenesis factor (PDAF) [37], insulin-like growth factor (IGF-1), and platelet factor 4 (PF-4) [38, 39], vascular endothelial growth factors (VEGF), and endothelial growth factors (EGF) [40, 41]
Angiogenesis factors	Vascular growth factor (VGF), VEGF, platelet derived membrane microparticles (PMP), and peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMNCs) [10]
Factors in other mechanisms of PRP	Serotonin, histamine, dopamine, calcium, and adenosine [18]

# L-PRP Ovarian rejuvenation

An institutional review board (IRB) approved  
 Patent procedure **A61K35/16**,

Blood amount	50 - 60 mL
Antikoagulans	ACD-a
HCT	6%
Total PRP	6 mL
Aplicated to ovaries	3.5 mL
Platelet concentration	9,3 X baseline
Leucocyte concentration	2,6 X baseline
Thrombin activation	yes 1:10

red.br.	datum	ime i prezime pacijentkinje	stimulisani	SPC	horm.status pred interv.
1.	07.07.2015.	TINTOR LAJŠIĆ DANIJELA 1976.g.( rejuvenacija ovarijuma )	9 x druga ustanov	4 x kod nas	FSH 14.02,LH 6.12 , E2 28.2 ,AMH 0.15 ,T 0.14 DHEAS 35.2,Kortizol 187.4,Andros
2.	08.08.2015.	BUHA DANKA 1968.g.(rejuvenacija ovarijuma )	nema	6 x SPC	FSH 35.35,LH 12.96,E2 11.23,DHEA-S 457.8,TSH 0.88,
3.	15.08.2015.	BOJOVIĆ MARIJA 1972.g.(rejuvenacija i ubrizgavanje tkiva ovarijum)	nema	2x kod nas	FSH 24.89,LH 6.79,E2 34,3,FT4 16.12,TSH 0.639
4.	26.08.2015.	DUČIĆ OLGA 1980.g. (rejuvenacija ovarijuma)	nema	nema	FSH 33.08,LH 17.1,E248.2,TSH 1.712,DHEA-S 59.2,AMH 0.09
6.	04.09.2015.	MARKOVIĆ MARINA 1978.g. POI	1 x kod nas	7 x kod nas	FSH 17.78,LH 9.21,E2 419.1,Kortizol,784,

# Very efficacious treatment

- Social fertility preservation
- Egg donation

On time !?

