LETROZOLE
(2.5MG TABS)

Letrozole is a drug used frequently to induce ovulation. This drug acts on the pituitary gland to release the hormones that induce follicle development within the ovary. This medication is taken orally as prescribed. It is important to take the medications the same time every day. Prior to starting this medication, you will need an ultrasound to assure your ovaries are free of cysts.

For IUI cycles: The drug is to be taken orally following a menstrual period starting on days 3 or 5 of your cycle (ask your nurse if you are not sure which day to start), for a total of 5 days for IUI cycles. Doses may vary, typically the Letrozole will come in 2.5 mg tablets, so you may be prescribed to take 1, 2 or 3 tablets daily. It is important to take the dose pill(s) at the same time each day. **If you proceed with a second IUI cycle, you will require an ultrasound prior to the use of this medicine to assure you do not have any residual cysts.**

Due to the risk of residual cysts on the ovaries following Letrozole, it is medically necessary to have the ovaries "checked" by ultrasound before proceeding with another Letrozole IUI cycle.
This is routinely done day 1 through 5 of a menstrual cycle. The incidence of multiple births is only slightly increased with the use of Letrozole. It is reported that over 90% of all deliveries are single births and 5%-8% are twin gestations. There is a less than 1% incidence of triplets or more.

For IVF cycles: In some cases, the physician may prescribe Letrozole during your IVF stimulation cycle, the dose may vary, so follow your nurse's instructions. The dose can also be increased to ensure adequate ovulation. Once you are ovulating, there is no benefit to increasing the dosage.

For IVF cycles, you will follow the instructions on your calendar. It is important to take the pill(s) at the same time each day orally. You can take Letrozole on an empty or full stomach.

Side Effects: Reported side effects of Letrozole are hot flashes, mood swings, breast tenderness, nausea, and headaches. These are not serious and usually go away once the medication is stopped for that cycle. Near the time of ovulation, some women report mild discomfort or "twinges" in their ovaries. In rare circumstances, the ovary may be over stimulated causing abdominal discomfort. If you experience abdominal pain, bloating, or distension, you should call your nurse immediately. Ovarian enlargement will subside after the cycle is discontinued.