



Intralipid Infusion

What is Intralipid infusion?

Intralipid is a fat emulsion solution that consists of soybean oil, egg yolk phospholipids and glycerin. It may be recommended by your physician as part of your fertility treatment.

Why is Intralipid used to treat infertility?

Research in both animals and humans has shown that Intralipid may enhance implantation and maintenance of pregnancy for patients with recurrent pregnancy loss or recurrent lack of implantation with IVF. Some types of infertility may be caused by a slightly overactive immune system. When this occurs the immune system can attack egg, sperm, embryo and even a developing fetus. This can result in difficulty achieving pregnancy, maintaining the pregnancy, or repeated miscarriages.

Natural killer (NK) cells are regulated by the immune system. In women who have autoimmune issues, the NK cells can react abnormally to an implanting embryo, treating it as an invading cell and signaling for the body to attack it.

Intralipids have been shown to lower the activity of the NK cells component of our immune system. Studies have found that Intralipid can help to regulate the NK cells, allowing the embryo to implant on the uterine wall and grow normally. New research has suggested that women who have experienced recurrent miscarriages or multiple failed IVF cycles as a result of NK cell activation may benefit from the use of Intralipid.

How is Intralipid administered?

Intralipid is given as an intravenous infusion and is currently being offered to our patients at the Okanagan Health Surgical Centre (OHSC) in Kelowna, and Olive Fertility Centre (OFC) in Vancouver. You will be required to do some baseline blood work and sign a consent form prior to the infusion. As recommended by your physician, Intralipid is scheduled around the time of embryo transfer, with a positive pregnancy test and again at 8–12 weeks along in the pregnancy. Your physician and/or nurses will let you know the recommended schedule for you.

What are the risks of Intralipid infusions?

The risks of an Intralipid infusion are low. This product has been used for over 30 years now and there are very few side effects. Some patients may rarely experience the following: fever, chills, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, shortness of breath or an allergic type reaction. These symptoms usually resolve quickly once the infusion is stopped. You may not have Intralipid if you have liver failure, renal disease, sensitivity (allergy) to soy products or eggs, or any recent severe medical illness.