



## HCG

Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (HCG) is a hormone produced by the human placenta. In infertility it is frequently used to trigger ovulation. This is important to improve the timing of intercourse or intrauterine insemination. It may also be used in IVF (In vitro fertilization) cycles.

It is administered by a subcutaneous or intramuscular injection. There are very few side effects, but these include skin redness and swelling at injection site that may last 2-3 days. Women undergoing ovarian stimulation with medications may develop large ovarian cysts after receiving HCG. This is called ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome. It is a rare complication occurring in about 1-2% of women. Ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome usually subsides in several weeks without treatment.