Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome

Ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS) is a very rare complication of fertility treatment such as IVF. It occurs when too many eggs develop in the ovaries which then become swollen and painful. OHSS can be mild, moderate or severe. It generally develops in the week after egg collection and in rare cases can be extremely dangerous.

The symptoms of OHSS include pain and swelling in the lower abdomen, nausea and sickness. If you have any of these symptoms after any ovarian stimulation, you should contact your fertility clinic immediately. If your OHSS is severe, you may need to stay in hospital until your condition has been treated.

The British Fertility Society with associated Specialist Societies has produced a series of Quick Guides which you may find helpful.

NHS Choices are the UK’s biggest health website.