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Patient Information About Collagen Injections for Urinary Leakage

Goals of Treatment

Collagen injections are performed in an attempt to improve your bladder control and reduce urinary leakage. Collagen injections work in women who have nerve & muscle weakness of the opening of the bladder as a major part of their leakage problem. The injections primarily help with loss of urine with physical straining. The effect on urinary urgency & voiding at night is less predictable. While we hope that 1 injection will be enough, most women require 1 or 2 treatments, & some need 3. While we would like to completely cure your leakage, that is not always possible. If damage to urethral muscles & nerves is significant, the tissues are too scarred, or if your body absorbs the collagen implant quickly, the collagen injections may not help. Improving your leakage by about 80% is usually a reasonable goal.

Risks of Treatment

The risks of collagen injection are very low. Around 1/200 women are allergic to the collagen material, so a skin test is performed in the office 4 weeks prior to treatment. If you are allergic, the skin test injection site on your arm will become red & may swell a bit temporarily. There is a small chance of bladder infection, so you will be given antibiotics to take for 3 days after the procedure. The chance of having difficulty voiding after treatment is about 1/1000.

The Day of Treatment

The scheduler will tell you where and when to arrive on the day of your procedure. You should take your regular medicines unless you take coumadin— if you take coumadin, your surgeon will discuss the use of this medication in relation to this procedure.

The procedure takes about 5 minutes, with the injection itself taking a few seconds on each side. There is a little soreness when the collagen is injected; but the pain usually goes away quickly. You can drive & resume your usual activities right away, but you may want to treat yourself to a quiet afternoon.

Follow-up

You should call the office in about 4 weeks to let us know how you are doing with your bladder control. If you are still having loss of urine with physical straining, we can perform another treatment, but we hope that will not be necessary.

We wish you the best of luck with your treatment!