



Figure 2 Profile summary of the pilot study.

Table 2 The cycle characteristics in double stimulations in patients with poor ovarian response.

Characteristic	First oocyte retrieval (n = 38)	Second oocyte retrieval (n = 30)	P-Value
Stimulation duration (days)	10.2 ± 2.4	10.8 ± 3.1	NS
Human menopausal gonadotrophin dose (IU)	326.4 ± 248.9	1802.5 ± 712.7	<0.001
Number of follicles >10 mm on trigger day	1.9 ± 0.9	4.3 ± 2.8	<0.001
Number of follicles >14 mm on trigger day	1.5 ± 0.6	3.5 ± 2.0	<0.001
Number of oocytes retrieved	1.7 ± 1.0	3.5 ± 3.2	0.001
Number of metaphase II (metaphase II) oocytes	1.4 ± 1.0	2.7 ± 2.7	0.008
Number of immature oocytes	0.2 ± 0.5	0.8 ± 1.0	0.011
Number of fertilized oocytes	1.0 ± 1.0	2.1 ± 2.5	0.019
Number of cleaved embryos	1.0 ± 1.0	2.0 ± 2.4	0.045
Number of top-quality embryos	0.7 ± 1.0	1.2 ± 1.5	NS
Number of cryopreserved embryos	0.9 ± 1.0	1.3 ± 1.4	NS
Oocyte retrieval rate per follicle n (%)	62/78 (79.5)	105/183 (57.4)	<0.001
Mature oocyte rate n (%)	53/62 (85.5)	82/105 (78.1)	NS
Fertilization rate n (%)	37/53 (69.8)	62/82 (75.6)	NS
Cleavage rate n (%)	37/37 (100)	59/62 (95.2)	NS
Cancellation rate n (%)	20/38 (52.6)	13/30 (43.3)	NS

NS, not statistically significant.

of mature oocytes (85.5% versus 78.1%), fertilization rate (69.8% versus 75.6%) and cleavage rate (100.0% versus 95.2%). The oocyte retrieval rate in stage one was higher than those in stage two (79.5% versus 57.4%, $P < 0.001$). The number of top-quality embryos (0.7 ± 1.0 versus 1.2 ± 1.5) and cryopreserved embryos (0.9 ± 1.0 versus 1.3 ± 1.4) was no significant difference between the first oocyte retrieval and the second oocyte retrieval.

No patients experienced moderate or severe ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome during the study.

Hormonal profile during treatment

The values of circulating concentrations of FSH, LH, oestradiol and progesterone in women undergoing ovarian double stimulation are presented in Figure 3. The FSH and LH values on the day after the first GnRH agonist administration were significantly higher than those after the second trigger ($P < 0.001$). Serum oestradiol values showed a gradual increase accompanying the growth of follicles during stage one, and no significant difference in values was found between the