

Dear Doctor XXX,

I'm referring to you one of my patients Ms x who came to see me this morning for back pain. This started 3 days ago after waking up with no cause identifiable. Initially the pain was in the lower back, the next day it became pain and weakness on the right side, upper and lower limb. This morning, Ms x had difficulty speaking.

To note, Ms x received hormone treatment for IVF from the beginning of October, then had surgery mid-October to harvest one of her eggs.

Upper limbs and lower limbs peripheral neurological exams were performed, strength was measured at 4/5 all on the right side, the left side was at 5/5. Reflexes were absent on the right side and present on the left side.

It was difficult for Ms x to balance herself during the Romberg test, although this might have been due to the back pain. pupillary light response normal test was normal. Ms x seems to present a slight facial paralysis on the left. She doesn't have a fever.

At this point I would be grateful if you could rule out a stroke or an infection during surgery. The literature seems to suggest an increase in stroke risk up to one year after delivery after IVF treatment. It is less clear before. Fertility drugs used may rarely lead to ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome which can lead to ischemic strokes. Cases reports linking OHHS to carotid artery dissection also exist. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.