**Preserving Your Fertility Before Cancer Treatment**

### Cancer Treatment and Fertility Risk

Some cancer treatments can cause infertility (inability to have a child) or decrease your fertility (ability to have a child).

### Your Risk Depends On

- Your age and sex
- Whether you had fertility problems before treatment
- The type of cancer you have and the treatments you receive

### When Diagnosed

Consider your fertility risks, even if you aren’t sure you want to have children.

### Ask for a Referral to a Reproductive Specialist

A reproductive specialist is a doctor who specializes in fertility problems and can help explain your options for preserving fertility.

### Your Options

ASCO provides information on the procedures that work well for preserving fertility, those still being researched, and those that don’t work well.

#### WOMEN

**Recommended**
- Freezing fertilized eggs, called embryo cryopreservation
- Freezing unfertilized eggs, called oocyte cryopreservation
- Surgery and radiation therapy given in specific ways to avoid harming a woman’s reproductive organs
- Freezing tissue from the ovaries, called ovarian tissue cryopreservation
- Using hormones to stop the ovaries from working during treatment, called ovarian suppression

**Investigational**
- Freezing testicular tissue, called testicular tissue cryopreservation and reimplantation

**Not recommended**
- Hormonal therapy

#### MEN

**Recommended**
- Freezing sperm, called sperm cryopreservation or sperm banking

**Investigational**
- Freezing testicular tissue, called testicular tissue cryopreservation and reimplantation

**Not recommended**
- Hormonal therapy

#### CHILDREN and TEENS

**Recommended**
- For children who have been through puberty: freezing semen, called semen cryopreservation, for boys
- For children who have been through puberty: testicular tissue cryopreservation for boys and ovarian tissue cryopreservation for girls

**Investigational**
- For children who have been through puberty: testicular tissue cryopreservation for boys and ovarian tissue cryopreservation for girls

### Timing is Important

Fertility preservation methods can take as little as 24 hours for men, and methods for women now take less time than the 2 to 4 weeks needed in the past.

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**Find more at** [www.cancer.net/whattoknow](http://www.cancer.net/whattoknow) or read ASCO’s full guideline at [www.asco.org/guidelines/fertility](http://www.asco.org/guidelines/fertility)

**RESOURCES**

- Reproductive and Sexual Health ([www.cancer.net/reproductivehealth](http://www.cancer.net/reproductivehealth))
- “Moving Forward” Video Series for Young Adults With Cancer: Fertility ([www.cancer.net/movingforward](http://www.cancer.net/movingforward))

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