

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.

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.

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

Investigational

- Freezing tissue from the ovaries, called ovarian tissue cryopreservation
- Using hormones to stop the ovaries from working during treatment, called ovarian suppression

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 and oocyte cryopreservation for girls

Investigational

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

▶ Find more at www.cancer.net/whattoknow or read ASCO's full guideline at www.asco.org/guidelines/fertility

▶ RESOURCES

Reproductive and Sexual Health (www.cancer.net/reproductivehealth)
 "Moving Forward" Video Series for Young Adults With Cancer: Fertility (www.cancer.net/movingforward)



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