

Fertility Preservation for Patients Diagnosed with Cancer



Each year more than 140,000 people in their reproductive years are diagnosed with cancer. This includes more than 11,000 women under the age of 40 who are diagnosed with breast cancer each year and 21 percent of women diagnosed with gynecologic cancers.

Fortunately cancer survivorship rates are high. Over 75 percent of patients diagnosed with cancer under age 45 survive at least five years. Many young cancer patients have no children or want more children. Cancer treatment can, however, often compromise future fertility. It is very important, therefore, for patients and physicians to know of the many effective options for fertility preservation for cancer patients.

At University Hospitals MacDonal Women's Hospital Division of Reproductive Endocrinology & Fertility, we offer a comprehensive infertility program that includes many fertility preservation options for patients with cancer diagnoses at University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center and adolescent and young cancer patients at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital.

For Women:

Many options available depending on the individual's circumstances including:

- Moving ovaries away from the field of radiation
- In Vitro Fertilization with freezing of embryos

- Freezing of unfertilized eggs*
 - Freezing of ovarian tissue*
 - Gonadotropin releasing hormone agonists (medication that may protect the ovaries from the harmful effects of chemotherapy)*
 - In Vitro Fertilization/Gestational Surrogacy
- *available but considered experimental*

For Men:

Sperm Banking

- Simple and inexpensive
- Does not delay treatment to any significant degree
- Effective even if sperm count is very low

Other Fertility Options:

- Donor egg program
- Donor sperm program

Financial support for fertility preservation procedures for qualifying patients may be available through the Partnership for Families Program. The Partnership for Families Program is a unique philanthropic organization co-founded in 2004 by Nancy Lerner Fisher, Esq., and James M. Goldfarb, MD. One of its purposes is to provide financial help to qualifying cancer patients needing fertility preservation procedures.

For further information regarding fertility preservation and/or the Partnership for Families Program, please contact:

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