FOR CHILDREN DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER

Ask Your Doctor About...

FERTILITY PRESERVATION

References

Resources
For more information about infertility risk and fertility preservation options for children diagnosed with cancer:
• Visit SaveMyFertility.org
• Call the FERTILINE: 866-708–FERT (3378)
• Visit the Oncofertility Consortium Web site: oncofertility.northwestern.edu
• Use the online Clinic/Center Finder to find the fertility preservation center closest to you: http://oncofertility.northwestern.edu/find-a-clinic-or-center
• Visit the Pediatric Oncofertility Research Foundation: www.porf.org

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The Oncofertility Consortium® is an international, interdisciplinary initiative designed to explore the reproductive future of cancer survivors. To learn more about fertility preservation, please visit SaveMyFertility.org for additional resources.

To learn more about the Oncofertility Consortium, visit oncofertility.northwestern.edu.
Starting the Conversation
Discussing fertility preservation is important. These key points can help start the conversation:
- Cancer and cancer treatment may affect my child's fertility.
- Will my child’s cancer or cancer treatment affect his/her fertility?
- What are the options to try to preserve my child’s fertility before he/she begins cancer treatment (see figure below).
- Can you refer us to a fertility preservation specialist to discuss my child’s options further?

Options for Fertility Preservation
- The following diagram gives a brief description of fertility preservation options available to children diagnosed with cancer before and after treatment.
- There are several resources listed on the reverse that can help you locate a fertility preservation specialist to discuss your child’s options.

Fertility preservation options for children diagnosed with cancer

Diagnosis → Receive your child’s treatment plan → Discuss impact of cancer and treatment on reproductive health with your doctor → Fertility Risk?
- Yes
  - Is your child interested in fertility preservation?
    - Yes → See a reproductive specialist → Discuss fertility preservation options* → Proceed with treatment
    - No → Pursue fertility preservation option → Proceed with treatment
- No

Before puberty
- Ovarian tissue banking **
- Egg banking
- Ovarian transposition and radiation shielding

After puberty
- Able and willing to undergo ovarian stimulation?
  - Yes → Bank sperm
  - No → Provide immature sperm or testicular tissue for banking*

Before cancer treatment
- Able to provide sperm for banking?
  - Yes → Bank sperm
  - No

During cancer treatment
- Radiation shielding of the testes

* Not an option if there is a high risk of ovarian metastases. Discuss with your doctor.
** Experimental—only performed as part of a clinical study approved by an IRB.

Introduction
You may not be aware there are options for preserving fertility in your child diagnosed with cancer.
- You may be focused on cancer treatment and your child’s immediate health.
- You may feel uncomfortable discussing issues of reproduction with your child.
Many adult survivors of childhood cancer feel fertility preservation and the ability to have a future family are important. Understanding there may be fertility preservation options available and having your child see a reproductive specialist in a timely manner can improve their future quality of life.