FOR WOMEN DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER

Ask Your Doctor About...

FERTILITY PRESERVATION

Resources
For more information about infertility risk and fertility preservation options for women diagnosed with cancer:

- Visit SaveMyFertility.org
- Call the FERTLINE: 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

References
Introduction

Many women who have been diagnosed with cancer think preserving their fertility is important and want information about their options. However,

- You may not feel comfortable bringing up fertility issues.
- You may not be aware of your options for preserving fertility.
- You may be focused on your cancer diagnosis and unable to think about fertility or the possibility of having a future family.
- You may later regret not considering fertility issues prior to starting cancer treatment.

Even women with a poor prognosis may want to consider fertility preservation.

Understanding there are fertility preservation options available and seeing a reproductive specialist in a timely manner can improve your emotional outlook and future quality of life.

Fertility Preservation—Where Does It Fit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Time Requirement</th>
<th>Other Considerations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embryo Banking</strong></td>
<td>Ovarian stimulation; Harvesting eggs, IVF and freezing of embryos</td>
<td>Before or after treatment</td>
<td>10–15 days</td>
<td>Need partner or donor sperm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Egg Banking</strong></td>
<td>Ovarian stimulation; Harvesting and freezing of unfertilized eggs</td>
<td>Before or after treatment</td>
<td>10–15 days</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ovarian Tissue Banking (Experimental)</strong></td>
<td>Surgical removal of ovarian tissue and processing of tissue for freezing</td>
<td>Before or after treatment</td>
<td>Outpatient surgical procedure</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Radiation Shielding</strong></td>
<td>Use of shielding to reduce scatter radiation to the ovaries</td>
<td>During treatment</td>
<td>In conjunction with radiation treatments</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ovarian Transposition</strong></td>
<td>Surgical reposition of ovaries out of radiation field</td>
<td>Before treatment</td>
<td>Inpatient surgical procedure</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Radical Trachelectomy</strong></td>
<td>Surgical removal of the cervix with preservation of the uterus</td>
<td>Before treatment</td>
<td>In conjunction with chemotherapy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ovarian Suppression (Experimental)</strong></td>
<td>GnRH analogs used to suppress ovaries</td>
<td>During treatment</td>
<td>In conjunction with chemotherapy</td>
<td>Limited to early stage cervical cancer</td>
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</table>

Table adapted from LIVESTRONG and Cancer and Fertility: Fast Facts for Reproductive Professionals (2008).

Options for Fertility Preservation