

PRESERVING FERTILITY

Many treatments for cancer, including surgery, radiotherapy, and cytotoxic chemotherapy, can cause male and female infertility. Thus, parents of children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer, and adults, particularly young adults, diagnosed with cancer should consider discussing with their health care providers whether infertility is a risk for them and if it is, whether fertility preservation is right for them, and if it is, which fertility preservation option is best for them.

Boys and Men

- Obtaining immature sperm or testicular tissue for banking is an experimental option being investigated for prepubertal boys before cancer treatment.
- Banking sperm is an option for postpubertal boys and men before cancer treatment.
- Shielding the testes from radiation is an option for boys and men during radiotherapy.

Girls and Women

- Obtaining ovarian tissue for banking is an experimental option being investigated for prepubertal girls before cancer treatment.
- Banking eggs is an option for postpubertal girls and women before cancer treatment.
- Banking embryos is an option for women before cancer treatment.
- Surgically moving the ovaries away from the part of the body receiving radiotherapy, a procedure called ovarian transposition, is an option for postpubertal girls and women before cancer treatment.
- Surgically removing the cervix but preserving the uterus is an option for women with early-stage cervical cancer.
- Shielding the ovaries from radiation is an option for girls during radiotherapy.
- Suppressing the production of the hormones estrogen and progesterone by the ovaries is an experimental option being investigated for postpubertal girls and women before cancer treatment.

