

FERTILITY & CANCER: WHAT WOMEN NEED TO KNOW

Flourish | Program Resource Guide

Fertility Preservation | Healthcare Team Members

- **Advanced Nurse Practitioners:** Educate and support patients through fertility decisions and care.
- **Lab Team Members:** Collect, freeze, and store reproductive tissues and cells.
- **Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialists:** Provide comprehensive care for mother and developing fetus, post-treatment.
- **Nurse Navigators:** Coordinate referrals and ensure timely fertility consultations.
- **Reproductive Endocrinologists:** Provide fertility preservation options like egg or embryo freezing.
- **Reproductive Psychologists:** Support emotional well-being and informed decision-making.

Treatments That May Impact Fertility

- Chemotherapy
- Radiation Therapy
- Surgery
- Hormonal (Endocrine) Therapy
- Stem Cell or Bone Marrow Transplant
- Targeted Therapy
- Immunotherapies

Fertility Preservation Options

- Assisted Reproductive Technology:
- Egg (Oocyte) Cryopreservation
 - Embryo Cryopreservation
 - Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation
- Emerging Approaches:
- Uterine transposition
 - Uterine transplants
 - Artificial ovaries
 - Improved patient access

Glossary of Terms

Oncofertility: The reproductive care of patients whose fertility may be impacted by cancer or its treatment.

Random start protocols: Fertility treatment approaches that allow ovarian stimulation to begin at any point during a woman’s menstrual cycle, rather than waiting for the start of a new cycle.

Teratogen: Any agent—such as a chemical, drug, infection, or environmental factor—that can disturb the development of an embryo or fetus, potentially leading to congenital abnormalities or even pregnancy loss.

Resources

- Livestrong: livestrong.org
- Chick Mission: thechickmission.org
- Alliance for Fertility Preservation: allianceforfertilitypreservation.org
- Walgreens Heartbeat Program: walgreens.com
- Worth the Wait: worththewaitcharity.com

Common Barriers to Access

- Financial cost and insurance coverage.
- Lack of patient or provider knowledge and awareness.
- Geographic location and access.

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