

Fertility Preservation for Adolescent and Young Adult Males

Infertility for a male means not producing healthy sperm therefore not being able to father a child. Some cancer treatments may cause infertility. Factors that influence infertility are your age at the time of treatment, the type of cancer, the chemotherapy drugs and the doses of those drugs. Radiation may also affect fertility. Talk with your oncologist or nurse practitioner about your treatment and the risk of infertility.

Sperm Banking

This is the most common and successful method of fertility preservation. This can be done after puberty. Sperm banking is freezing your sperm for future use. Success rates are high using banked sperm and sperm may be stored indefinitely. It is best to bank sperm before treatment begins.

Masturbation is the acceptable way of obtaining a specimen. If possible it is recommended you abstain from ejaculation for at least 48 hours before the collection. The timing between collection and freezing is important so check with the lab before obtaining the collection.

After treatment is completed you may have a semen analysis to determine a sperm count. It is recommended that you achieve a pregnancy before you discontinue banking your sperm. Cancer itself can cause infertility. Chemotherapy and or radiation may cause damage to your sperm.

It is also important to note the sperm recovery can occur several years after treatment and full recovery may take several years.

There are alternative methods of sperm collection including testicular extraction or use of testicular biopsy methods if unable to ejaculate. Testicular tissue freezing is experimental and has no human success rates at this time.

Resources

www.fertilehope.com

www.livestrong.org

www.cryolab.com

www.myoncolfertility.com