

## Resources

Connecticut Children's Comprehensive  
Fertility and Sexual Health Team  
[www.connecticutchildrens.org/fertility](http://www.connecticutchildrens.org/fertility)

Save My Fertility  
[www.savemyfertility.org](http://www.savemyfertility.org)

Take Charge  
[www.letstakecharge.org](http://www.letstakecharge.org)

*Financial Help*  
Fertility Within Reach  
[www.fertilitywithinreach.org](http://www.fertilitywithinreach.org)

Verna's Purse/ReproTech  
[www.reprotech.com](http://www.reprotech.com)

Livestrong  
[www.livestrong.org/fertility](http://www.livestrong.org/fertility)

Cancer can be scary and confusing. Your provider will go over common side effects from your cancer treatment, and one of those side effects may be problems with fertility. Because everyone is different, talk to your oncologist about your specific situation. *We are here to help you get through this!*

**Q:** Do I have to delay treatment?

**A:** In many cases, no.

**Q:** Will fertility preservation impact my cancer and/or treatment?

**A:** It will not affect your cancer or treatment

**Q:** Can I wait until after I finish my treatment to decide about fertility preservation?

**A:** It is important to talk to your doctor about your risk for fertility problems before you start cancer treatment, as some preservation options may not work once you start and/or after you finish treatment.

For more information, please visit us online:

**CONNECTICUTCHILDRENS.ORG/FERTILITY**

connecticutchildrens.org

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ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1.800.234.0780 (TTY: 1.800.545.8330).

UWAGA: Je eli mówisz po polsku, mo esz skorzysta z bezpłatnej pomocy j zykowej. Zadzwo pod numer 1.800.234.0780 (TTY: 1.800.545.8330).

# A Guide to Cancer and Fertility

FOR MALE ADOLESCENT AND  
YOUNG ADULT PATIENTS



 **Connecticut  
Children's** | Center for Cancer  
& Blood Disorders



## You have options!

The option best for you will depend on your age, development, and treatment status.

### Treatment and Fertility

Cancer treatment, including radiation and chemotherapy, can sometimes cause problems with fertility. *Fertility is a word used to describe your ability to have children naturally.* It is hard to know exactly what will happen with your fertility after treatment, but we have ways to decide how at risk you are for future fertility problems.

We also have ways to help protect your fertility before you start treatment. *This is called fertility preservation.* Fertility preservation is a fast-paced field with new technologies and research emerging all the time. It is safe and exciting to offer these opportunities to you!

### So, what is my risk for fertility problems?

Everyone is different. Your provider will classify you as 'low' 'moderate' or 'high' risk for developing fertility problems in the future. Your risk level depends on:

- Your age at the time of treatment
- Which chemotherapy treatments you will receive
- How much chemotherapy you will receive
- If you receive radiation:
  - Where on your body it will be
  - How much you will receive

#### Established methods

##### *Sperm banking*

This involves providing a sperm sample to freeze for later use.

##### *Testicular sperm extraction*

This option is for those who cannot produce a sperm sample. It involves a surgical procedure to extract sperm from the tissue. The sperm will be frozen for future use.

##### *Radiation shielding*

This involves using a removable lead shield over the testicles to protect them during radiation therapy.

#### Experimental Methods

##### *Testicular tissue cryopreservation (TTC)*

This option is experimental. It includes removing tissue from the testicle to freeze and re-implant in the future. It is a surgery but may be done at the same time as other procedures you may need for cancer treatment.

#### Family Building Options

Adoption or donor sperm. Create your own family any way you choose!