

Cancer & Fertility

Some, but not all, cancer treatments can affect your ability to have children. The impact of treatment on fertility depends on many factors. These include: type of cancer you have, type of treatment you get, including location, dose and duration of treatment, age, gender and your pre-treatment fertility status. If possible, it is important to talk with your doctor before treatment to learn about the impact of treatment on fertility and your options to preserve fertility. You may have options to save or protect fertility before and maybe even during treatment. But after treatment, your options may be more limited.

What are some questions that I should ask my doctor about my fertility before I start treatment?

- Will any of my cancer treatments affect my fertility?
- Are there effective cancer treatment options for me that are less likely to cause infertility?
- What are my fertility preservation options?
- How long do different fertility options take and is it medically safe to delay treatment?
- How much does fertility preservation cost?
- How will I know if I am infertile after treatment?
- If I don't preserve my fertility before treatments, what are my parenthood options after treatment?
- Do I have a type of cancer that can be inherited by my children?
- How long do I need to wait after cancer treatments end to start a family?
- Can you refer me to local or national resources for more information?
- Women may also want to ask:
 - Can cancer treatment damage my ovaries so that I lose some or all of my eggs, or go into early menopause?
 - What is the difference between early menopause (premature ovarian failure) and infertility?
 - Is my cancer treatment likely to damage my uterus, heart, or lungs in such a way that I may have trouble with a full term of pregnancy?

The Oncofertility Clinic at UCH Advanced Reproductive Medicine – 720-848-1690

UCH offers a broad oncofertility program that can assist both male and female patients before, during, and after cancer treatment with contraception, fertility preservation, hormone replacement therapy, sexual functioning, as well as traditional reproductive medicine services. The Oncofertility Program Coordinator can be reached at 303-724-3378 or oncofert@ucdenver.edu.

Cancer & Fertility

Internet Resources:

Please visit the websites below for fertility information, resources and support:

- **SaveMyFertility.org:** An education resource aimed at increasing awareness about fertility preservation options for cancer patients and educating patients about how cancer treatment may affect their hormonal health. This website provides informational handouts and questions you can ask your doctor. (<http://savemyfertility.org/>)
- **Livestrong.org** A resource dedicated to helping survivors explore their options in fertility. LiveString has a family-building options tool and opportunities for financial assistance. (<https://www.livestrong.org/we-can-help/livestrong-fertility>)