

Fertility Preservation Program

Specialized Services Of Our Fertility Preservation Program

The Center for Advanced Reproductive Services is part of an exclusive nationwide group of researchers, The Oncofertility Consortium, that is dedicated to the advancement of technologies that will improve fertility preserving options for cancer patients. As part of this group, we give patients access to fertility preserving options, participate in and have access to the latest clinical research, expand current knowledge of all issues related to cancer treatments and fertility, and are on the forefront of discovering new technologies and methods that successfully preserve fertility.

The following is an overview of the steps that patients in The Center's Fertility Preservation Program will go through:

STEP 1. When patients first call The Center, an initial phone interview is conducted and then an in-person consult is scheduled with one of our physicians.

STEP 2. A one-on-one consultation with one of The Center's physicians for a complete discussion of fertility preservation options, including expedited IVF and our ovarian tissue freezing study. Our physicians will have consulted with the patient's oncologists and reviewed all treatment plans so they are ready to discuss the patient's specific case.

STEP 3. You may have a psychological consultation with The Center's specially trained psychologist to discuss options, methods of managing the inevitable stress and review any emotional, psychological or ethical questions patient's may have. Patients will also receive informed consent information about each treatment option/procedure.

STEP 4. A final decision about which course of treatment is made. Patients, in conjunction with The Center's physicians and their oncologists, decide on a treatment plan.

1.

For patients who are able to postpone their cancer treatments by 30-40 days, they will likely proceed with expedited IVF.

PLAN 1 – Expedited IVF (30-40 days): If expedited IVF is determined to be the best course of treatment, an expedited plan will begin. Patients will take an online tutorial of the entire IVF process, which explains all of the steps in In Vitro Fertilization.

STEP 1: Another meeting with your Center physician will be held where you can ask any questions about the tutorial and review your treatment plans and medications. You will also sign your consent forms.

STEP 2: The Center has a specially trained Financial Counselor who meets with patients to help them work with their particular insurance carrier and determine precisely what is covered and what patients can expect to spend as a result.

STEP 3: Patients attend an Injection Teaching Class taught by our nurses where they will learn how to administer their medications.

STEP 4: A cycle start date is determined by The Center physician and the patient's oncologist. If needed, a semen analysis is done on the male's sperm.

STEP 5 (Freezing Embryos): At the beginning of a traditional IVF cycle, patients take several medications so they will develop multiple ovarian follicles that contain mature eggs capable of fertilization. Mature eggs are then retrieved through a simple procedure under ultrasound guidance and then the eggs are fertilized with sperm to create embryos. Embryos are then frozen for future use after cancer treatments are completed.

OR

STEP 5 (Freezing Eggs): To begin an IVF cycle with egg freezing, patients take several medications so they will develop multiple ovarian follicles that contain mature eggs capable of fertilization. Mature eggs are then retrieved through a simple procedure under ultrasound guidance and are then frozen for future fertilization after cancer treatments are completed. (Pending IRB approval.)

STEP 6: Patients are referred back to their oncologists to proceed with cancer treatment.

2.

For patients who must begin their cancer treatments immediately, they will likely go into the Ovarian Tissue Freezing Study.

PLAN 2 – Ovarian Tissue Freezing Study (3-7 days): If ovarian tissue freezing is determined to be the best course of treatment, a consult with one of The Center's physicians is setup to review the study. A surgical procedure to remove some of the patient's ovarian tissue is scheduled and medical consent forms are signed.

STEP 1 (plan 2): During surgery (called an oophorectomy) the ovary is removed. An embryologist then processes the tissue and freezes it for future use. This procedure is quick and relatively painless.

STEP 2 (plan 2): Patients have a post-surgery appointment at The Center and then they will be referred back to their oncologists to proceed with their cancer treatment.

The Center for Advanced Reproductive Services

Part of the University of Connecticut Health Center



Part of the National Physicians Cooperative of the Oncofertility Consortium