

Ready to start planning your care? Call us at [800-525-2225](tel:800-525-2225) to make an appointment.

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Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

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People with cancer have a number of options to preserve fertility before treatment begins or start a family after treatment is over.

Preserving Fertility in Girls and Women With Cancer

Cancer therapy can affect a woman's fertility in several ways. Certain treatments can damage or destroy the eggs within the ovaries or the reproductive organs themselves. Others can alter hormone levels that regulate the growth of eggs.

Options to preserve fertility before cancer treatment begins include:

- egg freezing (oocyte cryopreservation), in which a group of mature eggs are removed and frozen for possible use in the future
- embryo freezing (embryo cryopreservation), in which a group of mature eggs are removed and fertilized with sperm to create embryos that are frozen for possible use in the future
- ovarian transposition, in which a surgeon moves the ovaries to protect them from radiation treatment that is directed to the pelvis
- Learn more about possible options for [preserving fertility before your cancer treatment](#) begins. Read about techniques to [evaluate and preserve fertility after treatment](#). Or get more detailed guidance on resources and options for [having a family once treatment is completed](#).

Preserving Fertility in Boys and Men With Cancer

Certain treatments for cancer can affect the ability to produce sperm. They can also alter hormone levels that regulate sperm production or interfere with the ability to transfer sperm to a female partner during sex.

Options to preserve fertility before cancer treatment begins include:

- sperm banking, in which sperm are frozen for possible use in the future. Sperm is usually obtained through masturbation, but there are also medical techniques available to collect sperm if needed (electroejaculation and testicular sperm extraction)
- testicular shielding, which protects the testes (where sperm is produced) by blocking radiation during treatment that's directed at the pelvis or groin

Learn more about [sperm banking](#) before your cancer treatment begins, as well as options for [building a family once treatment is completed](#).

Listen Now: Preserving Fertility During Cancer Treatment: Options, Costs and Success Rates

Hear from a panel of MSK providers and onco-fertility experts who discuss the timing and options for patients who want to have biological

children without delaying life-saving cancer treatments.

[Play the episode](#)

Our Fertility Nurse Specialists

We have special training in fertility-related issues for people with cancer. Talk to your doctor or nurse if you are a patient at MSK and would like to speak to one of us.

[Anne Casson](#)

[Lauren Martino](#)

Fertility Nurse Practitioner Fertility Nurse Practitioner

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