



Egg freezing

for medical fertility preservation



Medical fertility freezing preserves the potential for fertility for women going through oncology or other medical treatments.

Egg freezing for medical reasons

Medical egg freezing relates to women whose fertility is affected or likely to be affected by conditions such as tumours of the ovary, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and/or other medical indications.

Our team has a long history of dedicated provision of fertility preservation expertise including tissue and gamete cryopreservation, counselling and support to patients affected by cancer and other fertility threatening, medical conditions.

What is tissue and gamete cryopreservation?

This refers to the process of freezing ovarian tissue, or human gametes, such as eggs or sperm, with the hopes of using it for future use in assisted reproductive treatments.

Fertility preservation is an essential part of cancer management. Ovarian tissue cryopreservation and grafting is now acknowledged as an important and successful fertility preservation method.

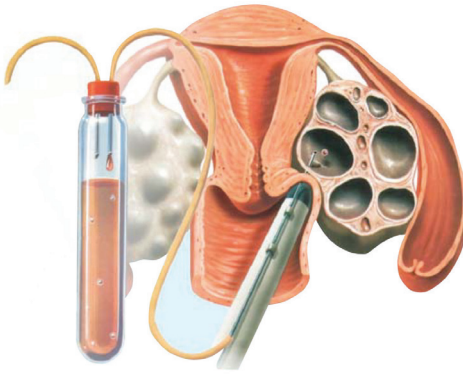
Recent work by Australian and international scientists has resulted in improved techniques for egg freezing and thawing.

Technique: hormonal stimulation

To obtain eggs for freezing, a woman will usually undergo hormonal stimulation over 10–12 days enabling a group of eggs to mature. The number of eggs retrieved will relate to each woman's individual circumstance. With normal ovarian reserve for women under 35, 10-15 eggs on average would be obtained.

There are a variety of stimulation techniques, and your doctor will decide, in discussion with you, which is the most appropriate for your treatment. The stimulation medications are usually self-administered by pen injection using a tiny needle under the skin, and are very easy to administer. Patients are taught how to do this in an instructive introductory session. The injections may make the woman feel a little bloated but most women have normal activities up until the day of the egg retrieval.

Procedure to remove the eggs



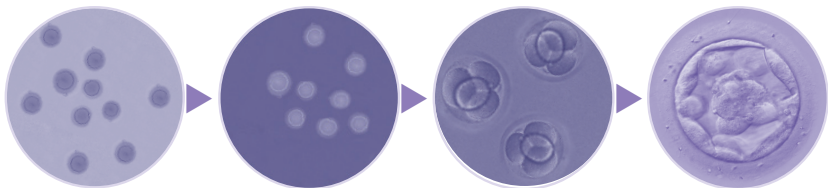
The eggs are removed from the ovaries in a minor procedure performed under sedation (patients are asleep for the procedure) which takes about 15 to 20 minutes. This procedure is performed by the fertility specialist using an ultrasound guided probe. Attached to the ultrasound probe is a needle guide. The fine needle passes through the vaginal wall into the ovary and draws the fluid (and eggs) from the ovary.

Patients can go home with a companion about one hour after the procedure and are advised to rest quietly for the rest of the day.

Egg freezing procedure

The eggs undergo a freezing procedure in the IVF laboratory, using the latest scientific technology, called vitrification (fast freezing). Eggs may be stored for many years without deterioration.

When the woman is ready to use her eggs, they are thawed, and then fertilised with sperm, developing into embryos which are then grown for several more days. A blastocyst (matured embryo) can then be transferred to the woman's uterus, with a subsequent chance of pregnancy.



10 eggs frozen

8-9 eggs survive
thaw process

2-4 embryos
once fertilised

1-4 Blastocyst

Costs

The costs for an egg freezing cycle varies depending on the patients individual circumstances.

Melbourne IVF is committed to minimising the out of pocket costs for our oncology patients. Speak to our friendly patient support officers who will guide you through the process of payment options to suit your individual circumstances.

Our program for oncology patients includes:

- ◆ Egg freezing treatment cycle
- ◆ 12 months storage
- ◆ Day Hospital fees
- ◆ Anaesthetic fees
- ◆ Medication



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