### 12<sup>th</sup> Belgian Symposium on the Integration of Molecular Biology Advances into Oncology Clinical Practice and Post-MASCC

# Fertility, Sexuality and Cancer (in Young Adult Women)

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ESMO Fellow

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Diegem, Belgium November 23, 2018











### **Disclosure Information**

**Relationship Relevant to this Session** 

Lambertini, Matteo:

• Consultant or advisor: Teva

• Honoraria: Theramex

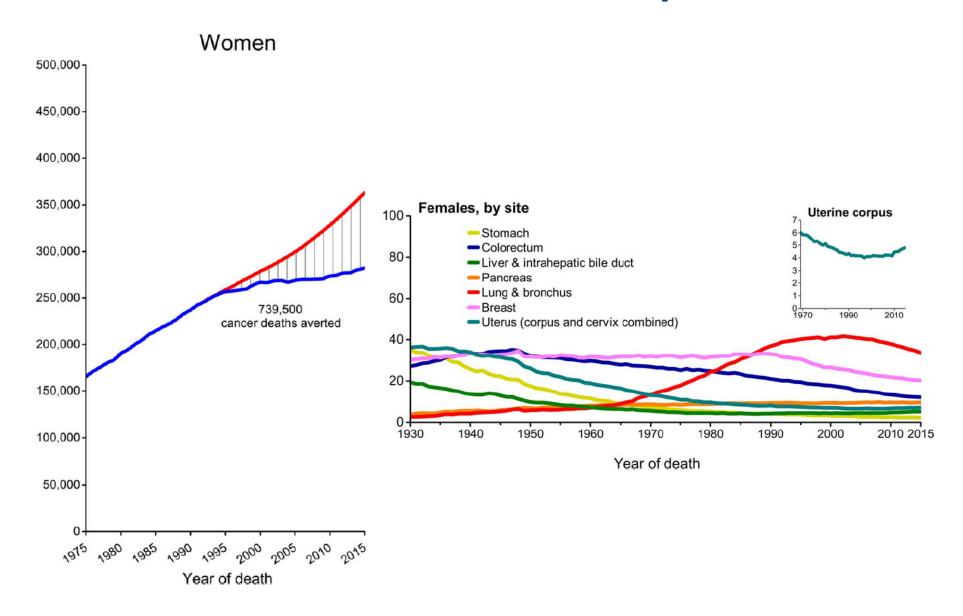
#### **Outline**

- Introduction
- Fertility in cancer patients:
  - Embryo/oocyte cryopreservation
  - Cryopreservation of ovarian tissue
  - Temporary ovarian suppression with GnRHa during chemotherapy
- Sexuality in cancer patients
- Conclusions

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### Cancer Burden: Survivorship Issues



### Cancer Burden in Young Adult Women

	Both sexes			Men			Women		
	New cases	%	ASR	New cases	%	ASR	New cases	%	ASR
All cancers except non-melanoma skin cancer	975396	100.0%	43.3	342721	100.0%	30.1	632 675	100.0%	57.0
Breast	191105	19.6%	8.4				191105	30.2%	17.0
Cervix uteri	110749	11.4%	4.9		••		110749	17.5%	9.9
Thyroid	78 568	8.1%	3.5	15 681	4.6%	1.4	62887	9.9%	5.7
Leukaemia	49 293	5.1%	2.2	28 020	8.2%	2.5	21 273	3.4%	2.0
Colorectal	41 117	4.2%	1.8	21 055	6.1%	1.8	20 062	3.2%	1.8
Liver	40720	4.2%	1.8	31767	9.3%	2.8	8953	1.4%	0.8
Brain and CNS	40 363	4.1%	1.8	22 822	6.7%	2.0	17541	2.8%	1.6
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	40 212	4.1%	1.8	23746	6.9%	2.1	16466	2.6%	1.5
Testis	30580	3.1%	1.4	30580	8.9%	2.7			
Ovary	29 262	3.0%	1.3				29 262	4.6%	2.6
Stomach	25768	2.6%	1.1	13 276	3.9%	1.2	12 492	2.0%	1.1
Melanoma of skin	25 248	2.6%	1.1	9553	2.8%	0.8	15 695	2.5%	1.4
Lip or oral cavity	23 041	2.4%	1.0	14634	4.3%	1.3	8407	1.3%	0.8
Hodgkin's lymphoma	22 973	2.4%	1.1	12 426	3.6%	1.1	10547	1.7%	1.0
Lung	22 512	2.3%	1.0	13 080	3.8%	1.1	9432	1.5%	0.9
Kaposi's sarcoma	20153	2.1%	0.9	12741	3.7%	1.1	7412	1.2%	0.7
Corpus uteri	15391	1.6%	0.7				15391	2.4%	1.4

# Gonadotoxicity of Anticancer Treatments in Young Adult Women

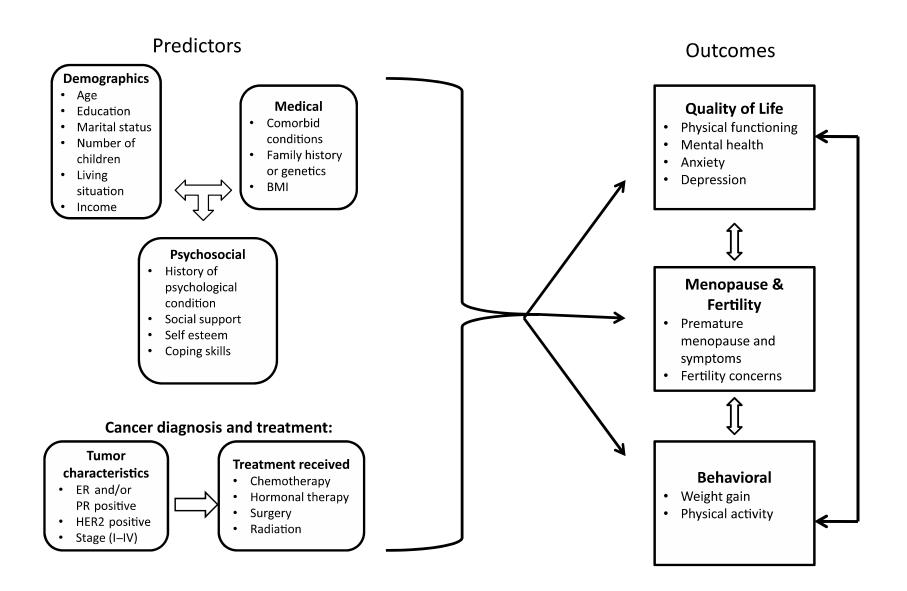
High risk (>80 % risk of permanent amenorrhea in women;	-HSC transplantation with cyclophosphamide/ TBI or cyclophosphamide/busulfan -External beam radiation to a field that includes the ovaries -CMF, CEF, CAF, TAC x 6 cycles in women ≥ 40 years
Intermediate risk (40 % - 60 % risk of permanent amenorrhea in women;	-BEACOPP -CMF, CEF, CAF, TAC x 6 cycles in women age 30–39 -AC x 4 cycles in women ≥ 40 years -AC or EC x 4 → Taxanes
Low risk (<20 % risk of permanent amenorrhea in women;	-ABVD in women ≥ 32 years -CHOP x 4–6 cycles -CVP -AML therapy (anthracycline/cytarabine) -ALL therapy (multi-agent) -CMF, CEF, CAF, TAC x 6 cycles in women ≤ 30 years -AC x 4 cycles in women ≤ 40 years
Very low or no risk (risk of permanent amenorrhea in women;	-ABVD in women < 32 years -Methotrexate -Fluorouracil -Vincristine -Tamoxifen

### **Fertility and Pregnancy Concerns**

Not at all 301 49	301 49
Not at all 301 49	301 43
A little 83 13	83 13
Somewhat 88 (14) → ≈ 50	88 (14) → ≈ 50%
Very 148 24	148 24

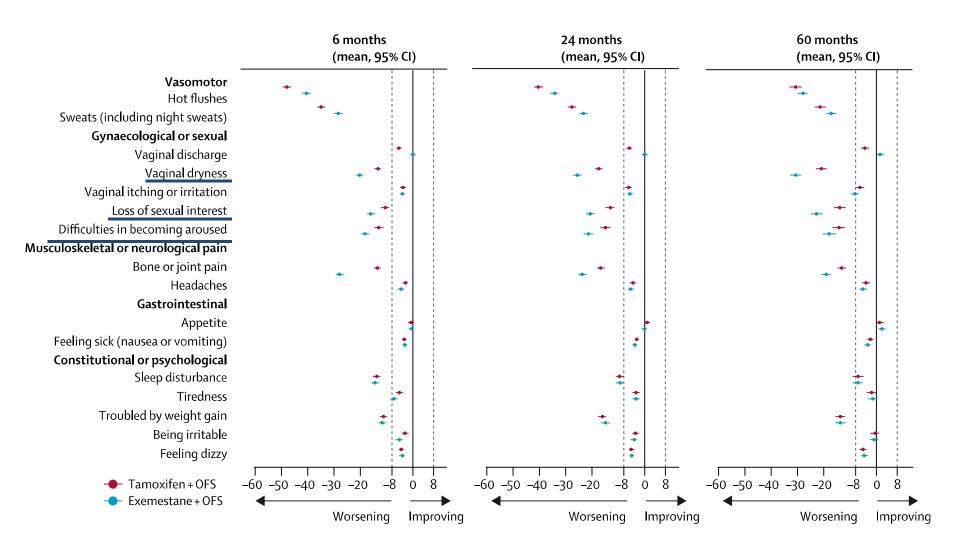
Characteristic	Total			Type of Cand	Type of Cancer		
	Sample, n=918	Leukemia, n=121	Hodgkin Disease, n=286 <sup>a</sup>	Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, n=169 <sup>a</sup>	Breast Cancer, n=223	Gastrointestinal Cancer, n=108	
Age at diagnosis, y, mean (SD)	31.5 (6.7)	28.3 (7.2)	27.9 (6.2)	31.6 (6.0)	36.3 (4.0)	34.9 (4.6)	
Age at survey, y, mean (SD)	40.9 (8.4)	37.0 (8.3)	36.5 (8.0)	40.5 (7.1)	47.1 (5.9)	44.6 (6.2)	
Years since diagnosis, mean (SD)	9.6 (4.4)	8.7 (4.3)	8.6 (4.4)	8.9 (3.9)	10.8 (4.5)	9.7 (4.0)	
Children before treatment, No. (%)	476 (52%)	46 (38%)	105 (37%)	88 (52%)	163 (73%)	76 (70%)	
Desiring children after treatment, No. (%)	504 (54%)	71 (59%)	181 (63%)	82 (49%)	104 (47%)	61 (56%)	

### **Not only Fertility and Pregnancy Concerns!**



### **Not only Fertility and Pregnancy Concerns!**

#### **Patient-Reported Outcomes SOFT&TEXT Trials**



### Failure to Address these Concerns may **Negatively Impact on Patients' Outcomes**



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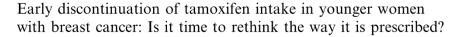


SERUM ASSESSMENT OF NON-ADHERENCE TO ADJUVANT ENDOCRINE THERAPY (ET) AMONG PROSPECTIVE MULTICENTER CANTO COHORT

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JNCI J Natl Cancer Inst (2015) 107(10): djv202

doi:10.1093/jnci/djv202 First published online August 25, 2015

Breast Cancer Res Treat (2011) 126:529-537 DOI 10.1007/s10549-010-1132-4

**EPIDEMIOLOGY** 

ARTICLE

**OXFORD** 

Impact of Fertility Concerns on Tamoxifen Initiation and Persistence

Natalia C. Llarena, Samantha L. Estevez, Susan L. Tucker, Jacqueline S. Jeruss

Early discontinuation and non-adherence to adjuvant hormonal therapy are associated with increased mortality in women with breast cancer

Dawn L. Hershman · Theresa Shao · Lawrence H. Kushi Donna Buono · Wei Yann Tsai · Louis Fehrenbacher Marilyn Kwan · Scarlett Lin Gomez · Alfred I. Neugut

Huiart L et al, Eur J Cancer 2012;48:1939-46. Pistilli B et al, ESMO 2018 Llarena NC et al, J Natl Cancer Inst 2015;107(10):djv202. Hershman DL et al, Breast Cancer Res Treat 2011;126:529-37

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# Oncofertility Counseling is Mandatory As soon as Possible after Diagnosis

#### **ESMO GUIDELINES 2013**

Young women desiring future fertility should be counselled on available fertility preserving options before starting anticancer treatments. Counselling should be implemented soon after diagnosis, to allow prompt referral to fertility specialists [IV, B].

#### **ASCO GUIDELINES 2018**

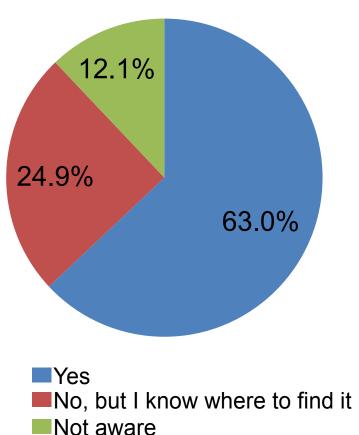
Recommendation 1.1. People with cancer are interested in discussing fertility preservation. Health care providers caring for adult and pediatric patients with cancer (including medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, gynecologic oncologists, urologists, hematologists, pediatric oncologists, surgeons, and others) should address the possibility of infertility as early as possible before treatment starts.

# Oncofertility Counseling is Mandatory As soon as Possible after Diagnosis Including in Patients with Advanced Disease

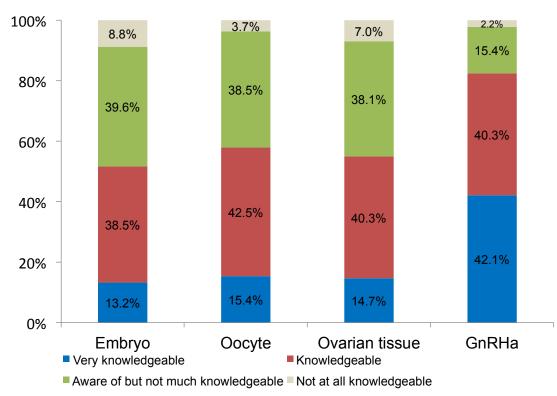
Guideline statement	LoE/GoR	Consensus
Fertility preservation: the impact of the anticancer therapies on fertility should be discussed with all women with ABC of childbearing age and their partners, before the start of treatment. The discussion must also include appropriate information about the prognosis of the disease and the potential consequences of pregnancy (e.g. stopping ongoing treatment).	Expert opinion/B	100%

# Physicians' Knowledge and Attitudes Towards Fertility Preservation

#### **Fertility Guidelines**



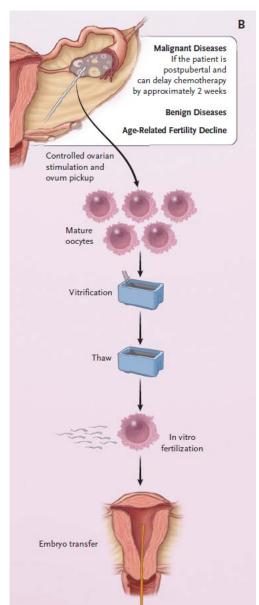
#### **Fertility Preservation Strategies**



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### Embryo/Oocyte Cryopreservation: Available Guidelines



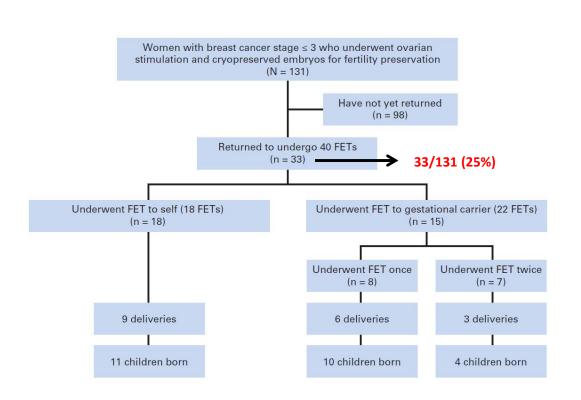
Guidelines	Year	Recommendations
ESMO	2013	Embryo or oocyte cryopreservation is the main method to preserve female fertility. Ovarian stimulation should be carried out before commencing chemotherapy.
ASCO	2018	Embryo cryopreservation is an <u>established fertility</u> <u>preservation method</u> , and it has routinely been used for storing surplus embryos after in vitro fertilization. Cryopreservation of unfertilized oocytes is an <u>option</u> , and may be <u>especially well suited</u> to women who do not have a male partner, do not wish to use donor sperm, or have religious or ethical objections to embryo freezing.

Donnez J & Dolmans MM, N Engl J Med 2017;377(17):1657-65

# Embryo/Oocyte Cryopreservation: Efficacy Data

**Embryo cryopreservation Prospective single-center cohort study** 

Octye cryopreservation
Prospective multicenter cohort study



Variable	OV (n = 49)	<b>→</b> 49/1024 (5%)
Status of patient at reimplantation Amenorrhea		
>1 y POI without	9 (18.4)	
amenorrhea	34 (69.4)	
Regular menstruations	6 (12.3)	
Age at retrieval, y Age at reimplantation, y	35.2 (3.1) 39.0 (3.8)	
AMH before reimplantation, pM	0 [0–1.29]	
No. of pregnant patients	20 (40.8)	
No. of patients with live births	16 (32.6)	

**Pregnancy rate = 20/33 (61%)** 

**Pregnancy rate = 20/49 (41%)** 

### **Embryo/Oocyte Cryopreservation: Efficacy Data**

#### Comparison of efficacy data between healthy women and cancer patients patients

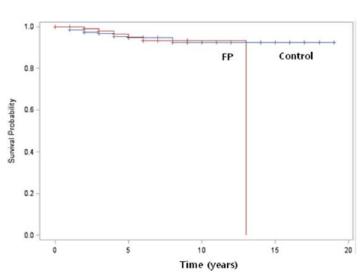
	'Fresh' embryo transfers		
	Elective fertility preservation	ONCO-fertility preservation	P Value
Patients returning (%)	641 /5289 (12.1)	80/1073 (7.4)	<0.0001
Mean age at vitrification	37.6 ± 3.5	34.8 ± 2.1	<0.0001
Mean age at return	$39.9 \pm 0.7$	$38.8 \pm 3.5$	0.004
Mean storage time (years)	2.1 ± 1.6	4.I ± 0.9	<0.0001
Warming cycles/patient	680/641 (I.I ± 0.5)	81/80 (1.01 ± 0.7)	0.123
Warmed oocytes/patient	5830/641 (9.1 ± 3.8)	605/80 (7.5 ± 2.8)	0.025
Survival rate (%)	4891/5830 (83.9)	495/605 (81.8)	0.188
Patients with surplus embryos vitrified (%)	325/641 (50.7)	37/80 (46.2)	0.509
Surplus embryos vitrified/patient	833/325 (2.7 ± 0.7)	90/37 (2.4 ± 1.2)	0.325
Transfers/warming cycle (%)	341/680 (50.2)	58/80 (72.5)	0.0002
Embryos transferred/cycle	469/341 (1.1 ± 0.8)	$83/58(1.4 \pm 0.1)$	<0.0001
Implantation rate (%)	42.6	32.5	0.014
Clinical pregnancies/transfer (%)	173/341 (50.7)	24/58 (41.4)	0.237
Ongoing pregnancies/transfer (%)	134/341 (39.2)	18/58 (31.0)	0.128
Live births	115	18	

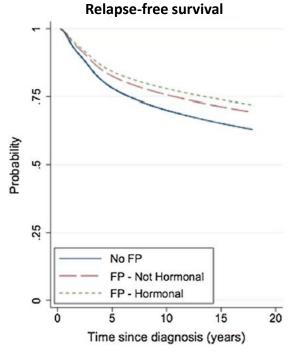
# Embryo/Oocyte Cryopreservation: Safety Data

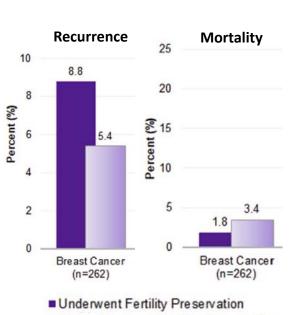
Prospective single-center cohort study n=120 FP & n=217 no FP

(Swedish registry) n=188 FP & n=378 no FP Retrospective single-center cohort study n=114 FP & n=148 no FP





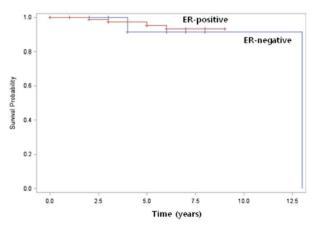




■Did Not Undergo Fertility Preservation

# Embryo/Oocyte Cryopreservation: Safety Data

#### Hormone-receptor status



Tamoxifen co-administration during controlled ovarian hyperstimulation for in vitro fertilization in breast cancer patients increases the safety of fertility-preservation treatment strategies

Dror Meirow, M.D., <sup>a</sup> Hila Raanani, M.D., <sup>a</sup> Ettie Mamar, M.D., <sup>a</sup> Shani Paluch-Shimon, M.B., B.S., M.Sc., <sup>b</sup> Moran Shapira, B.Sc., <sup>a</sup> Yoram Cohen, M.D., <sup>a</sup> Irena Kuchuk, M.D., <sup>b</sup> Ariel Hourvitz, M.D., <sup>a</sup> Lacob Levron, M.D., <sup>b</sup> Maria Mozer-Mendel, M.D., <sup>b</sup> Masha Brengauz, Ph.D., <sup>a</sup> Hana Biderman, B.Sc., <sup>a</sup> Daphra Manela, R.N.B.A., <sup>a</sup> Rephael Catane, M.D., <sup>a</sup> Jehoshua Dor, M.D., <sup>a</sup> Raoul Orvieto, M.D., <sup>a</sup> and Bella Kaufman, M.D. <sup>a</sup>

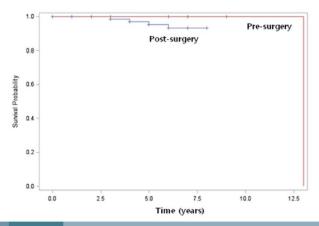
JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

ORIGINAL REPORT

Fertility Preservation Success Subsequent to Concurrent Aromatase Inhibitor Treatment and Ovarian Stimulation in Women With Breast Cancer

Kutluk Oktay, Volkan Turan, Giuliano Bedoschi, Fernanda S. Pacheco, and Fred Moy

#### Timing of chemotherapy administration



uman ORIGINAL ARTICLE Reproductive endocrinology

Random start ovarian stimulation for fertility preservation appears unlikely to delay initiation of neoadjuvant chemotherapy for breast cancer

Joseph M. Letourneau<sup>1,\*</sup>, Nikita Sinha<sup>1</sup>, Kaitlyn Wald<sup>1,2</sup>, Eve Harris<sup>1</sup>, Molly Quinn<sup>1</sup>, Tal Imbar<sup>4</sup>, Evelyn Mok-Lin<sup>1</sup>, A. Jo Chien<sup>3</sup>, and Mitchell Rosen<sup>1</sup>

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Fertility preservation with ovarian stimulation and time to treatment in women with stage II–III breast cancer receiving neoadjuvant therapy

A. Jo Chien¹ ⊙ · Julia Chambers² · Fiona Mcauley¹ · Tessa Kaplan³ · Joseph Letourneau⁴ · Jimmy Hwang¹ · Mi-Ok Kim¹ · Michelle E. Melisko¹ · Hope S. Rugo¹ · Laura J. Esserman¹ · Mitchell P. Rosen⁴

Kim J et al, J Clin Endocrinol Metab 2016;101(4):1364-71. Meirow D et al, Fertil Steril 2014;102(2):488-95. Oktay K et al, J Clin Oncol 2015;33(22):2424-9. Letourneau JM et al, Hum Reprod 2017;32(10):2123-9. Chien AJ et al, BCRT 2017;165(1):151-9

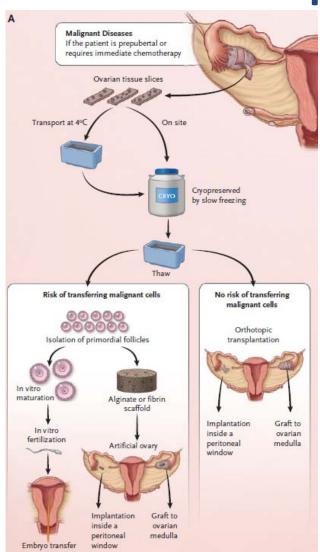
### Embryo/Oocyte Cryopreservation: Who Are the Best Candidates?

- Patients interested in fertility preservation with:
  - 1. Age < 38 40 years
  - 1. Good ovarian reserve
  - 1. The possibility to delay the start of chemotherapy (2 weeks or more)

#### **Outline**

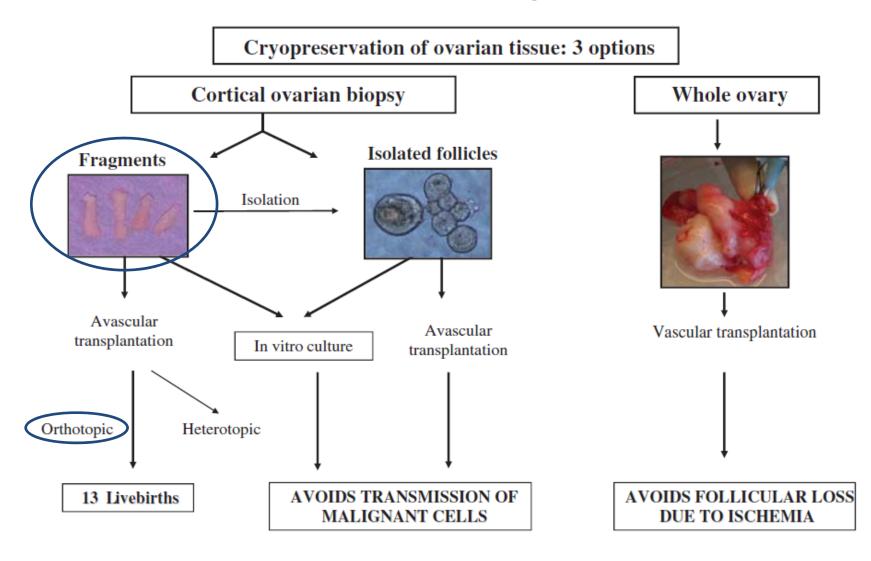
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# Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation: Updated Guidelines



Guidelines	Year	Recommendations
ESMO	2013	Ovarian tissue cryopreservation is still considered <b>experimental</b> , but remains a unique option for young girls with cancer
ASCO	2018	Ovarian tissue cryopreservation remains  experimental. However, emerging data may prompt reconsideration of this designation in the future (this technique is already considered non-experimental in some countries, and its experimental status is undergoing evaluation in the United States)

## Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation: The Technique



# Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation: Efficacy Data

Variable	OV (n = 49)	OCT (n = 44)	P
Status of patient at reimplantation			.04
Amenorrhea >1 y	9 (18.4)	20 (45.4)	
POI without amenorrhea	34 (69.4)	21 (47.8)	
Regular menstruations	6 (12.3)	3 (6.8)	
Age at retrieval, y Age at reimplantation, y AMH before reimplantation, pM	35.2 (3.1) 39.0 (3.8)	34.3 (7.2) 38.9 (4.1)	NS NS
	0 [0–1.29]	0 [0-0.30]	NS
No. of pregnant patients	20 (40.8)	12 (27.3)	NS
No. of patients with live births	16 (32.6)	8 (18.2)	NS

### Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation: Safety Data

#### Risk of malignant contamination by type of cancer

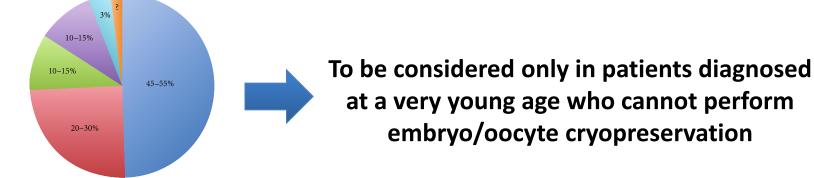
Low risk	Medium risk	High risk
Breast cancer stage I–II and infiltrating ductal subtype Squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix Hodgkin's lymphoma Osteogenic carcinoma Wilms tumour Non-genital rhabdomyosarcoma	Breast cancer stage IV and infiltrating lobular subtype Colon cancer Adeno carcinoma of the cervix Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma Ewing sarcoma	Leukaemia Neuroblastoma Burkitt lymphoma Ovarian carcinoma

#### Risk of ovarian cancer in hereditary syndrome

BRCA 1

Other genes

Genes involved in DSB repairMMR genes (Lynch SDR)TP53 (Li-Fraumeni SDR)



von Wolff M et al, Arch Gynecol Obstet 2018;297(1):257-67

Toss A et al, Biomed Res Int 2015;2015:341723. Lambertini M et al, Cancer Treat Rev 2017;59:61-70

### Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation: Who Are the Best Candidates?

- Patients interested in fertility preservation with high risk of premature ovarian insufficiency:
  - 1. Prepubertal girls
  - 2. Who cannot delay treatment initiation
  - 3. With contraindication to controlled ovarian stimulation

#### **Outline**

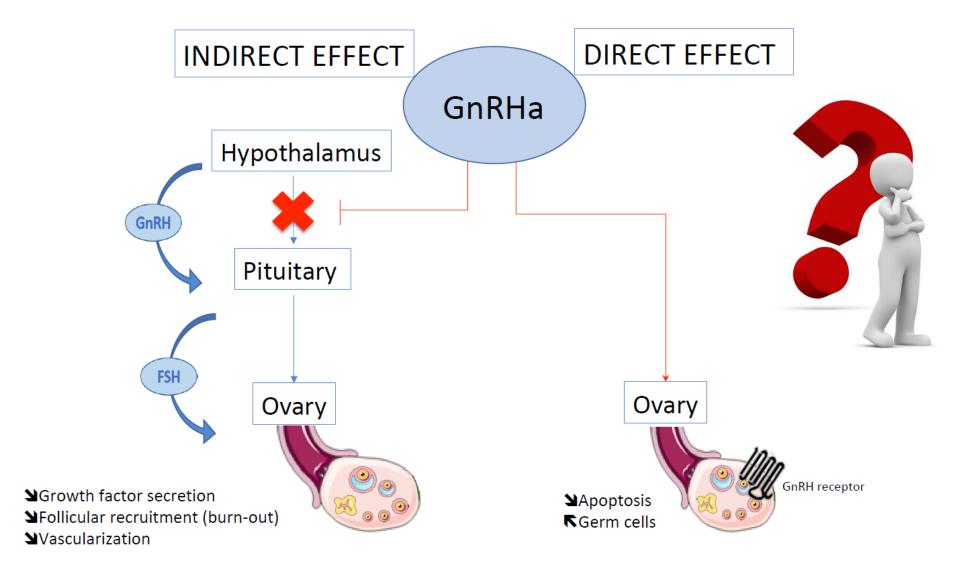
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# Ovarian Suppression with GnRHa during CT: Updated Guidelines

Guidelines	Year	Recommendations
ESO-ESMO BCY3	2017	GnRHa <b>should be discussed</b> as an option with all breast cancer patients interested in <u>potentially preserving fertility and/or ovarian function</u> who are candidates for chemotherapy, irrespective of tumor subtype
AIOM	2017	GnRHa during chemotherapy <b>should be recommended</b> to all premenopausal breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy who are interested in <u>ovarian function and/or fertility</u> <u>preservation</u>
ASCO	2018	When proven fertility preservation methods are not feasible, and in the setting of young women with breast cancer, GnRHa <b>may be offered</b> to patients in the hope of <u>reducing the likelihood of chemotherapy-induced ovarian insufficiency</u> .  GnRHa <b>should not</b> be used in place of proven <u>fertility preservation methods</u> .

#### **Updated ESMO and ESHRE guidelines are upcoming**

### Ovarian Suppression with GnRHa during CT: Mechanism of Action



### Hematological Malignancies (HL&NHL): RCTs

Authors	Type of disease	POI definition (timing of its evaluation)	Timing POI evaluation (months)	No. patients		Main results (GnRHa vs. control)	Overall results
Waxman JH	HL	Amenorrhea	Up to 36	18	•	POI rate: 50% vs. 33.3%	No
et al. 1987					•	Pregnancies: 0 vs. 1	protection
Loverro G et	HL	Amenorrhea	NR	29	•	POI rate: 0% vs. 46%	No
al. 2007*					•	Pregnancies: 0 vs. 2	protection
Behringer K	HL	AMH levels	12	23	•	POI rate (AMH): 100% vs. 100%	No
et al. 2010		below normal			•	Amenorrhea rate: 30.0% vs.	protection
		range				33.3%	
					•	Pregnancies: 0 vs. 0	_
Demeestere	HL and	Postmenopausal	12	84	•	1-y POI rate: 20% vs. 19%	No
I et al. 2013	NHL	levels of FSH				(p=1.00)	protection
Demeestere					•	1-y AMH at ≥ 1 ng/mL: 50.0% vs.	
I et al. 2016						13.3% (p=0.023)	
					•	Long-term POI rate: 19.4% vs.	
						25.0% (p=0.763)	
					•	Pregnancies: 17 vs. 15 (p=0.467)	

Waxman JH et al, Cancer Chemother Pharmacol 1987;19:159-62. Giuseppe L et al, Hematol 2007;12:141-7. Behringer K et al, Ann Oncol 2010;21:2052-60. Demeestere I et al, J Clin Oncol 2013;31:903-9 & 2016;34:2568-74

### **Breast Cancer: IPD Metanalysis**

### **Study Characteristics**

	PROMISE-GIM6 <sup>1,2</sup>	POEMS/SWOG S0230 <sup>3</sup>	Moffitt-led trial⁴	GBG-37 ZORO⁵	Anglo Celtic Group OPTION <sup>6</sup>
Definition of POI	No resumption of menstrual activity and postmenopausal levels of FSH and E2	Amenorrhea for the prior 6 months and postmenopausal levels of FSH	No maintenance of menses and no resumption of menses	No re-appearance of two consecutive menstrual periods within 21 to 35 days	Amenorrhea with elevated FSH
Timing of POI after chemotherapy	12 months	24 months	24 months	6 months	Between 12 and 24 months
Sample size	281	257	48	60	227
ER status for eligibility	ER-positive and ER- negative	ER-negative only	ER-positive and ER- negative	ER-negative only	ER-positive and ER- negative
Upper age limit for eligibility	≤ 45 years	≤ 49 years	≤ 44 years	≤ 45 years	None
Type of GnRHa	Triptorelin	Goserelin	Triptorelin	Goserelin	Goserelin

<sup>1.</sup> Del Mastro L et al, *JAMA* 2011;306:269-76. 2. Lambertini M et al, *JAMA* 2015;314:2632-40. 3. Moore HCF et al, *N Engl J Med* 2015;372:923-32. 4. Munster P et al, *J Clin Oncol* 2012;30:533-38. 5. Gerber B et al, *J Clin Oncol* 2011;29:2334-41. 6. Leonard RCF et al, *Ann Oncol* 2017;28:1811-16.

# Breast Cancer: IPD Metanalysis Efficacy Data

### Premature-Ovarian Insufficiency Rate



<sup>\*</sup>Odds ratio (OR) adjusted for age, estrogen receptor status, type and duration of chemotherapy administered

# Breast Cancer: IPD Metanalysis Efficacy Data

### **Post-Treatment Pregnancy Rate**

**GnRHa Group: 37/359 (10.3%)** 

VS.

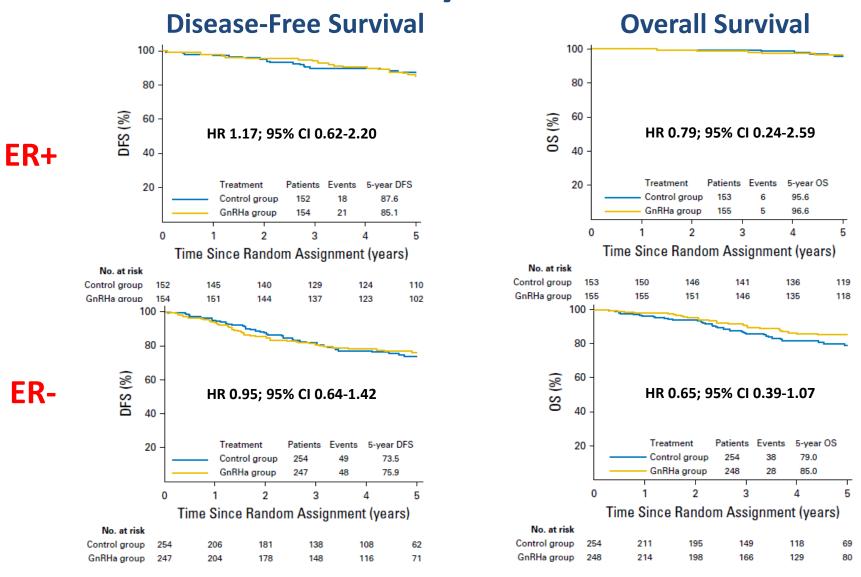
Control Group: 20/367 (5.5%)

IRR\* 1.83 (95% CI 1.06-3.15) p=0.030

	GnRHa group (n = 37) No. (%)	Control group (n = 20) No. (%)
Age distribution, years ≤ 40 ≥ 41	37 (100) 0 (0.0)	20 (100) 0 (0.0)
Estrogen receptor status Positive Negative	6 (16.2) 31 (83.8)	2 (10.0) 18 (90.0)

<sup>\*</sup>Incidence rate ratio (IRR)

# **Breast Cancer: IPD Metanalysis**Safety Data



Lambertini M et al, J Clin Oncol 2018;36(19):1981-90

## Potential Explanations on the Differences Breast Cancer vs. HL&NHL

#### **Breast Cancer**

- 14 RCTs including 1,647 patients
- 4 RCTs including > 200 patients
- Older age at diagnosis (≈40 years)
- Treatment with chemotherapy regimens having moderate risk of gonadotoxicity (cyclophosphamidebased regimens)

#### **HL&NHL**

- 4 RCTs including 154 patients
- The largest RCT included 84 patients
- Younger age at diagnosis (≈25 years)
- Treatment with chemotherapy regimens having high (conditioning regimens for HSCT) or low (ABVD) risk of gonadotoxicity

## Ovarian Suppression with GnRHa during CT: Who Are the Best Candidates?

- Patients interested in <u>ovarian function</u> <u>preservation</u> (premenopausal women)
- Patients interested in <u>fertility preservation</u> (age < 38 40 years):</li>
  - 1. Following embryo/oocyte cryopreservation
  - 2. With no access to embryo/oocyte cryopreservation

## **Outline**

- Introduction
- Fertility in cancer patients:
  - Embryo/oocyte cryopreservation
  - Cryopreservation of ovarian tissue
  - Temporary ovarian suppression with GnRHa during chemotherapy
- Sexuality in cancer patients
- Conclusions

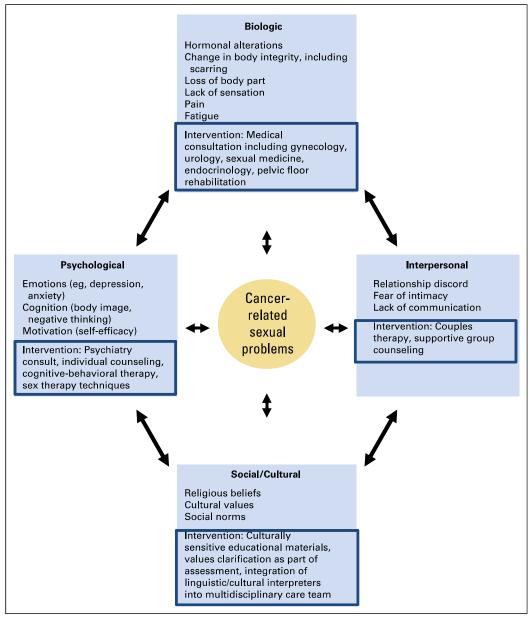
# Sexual Side Effects of Anticancer Treatments in Young Adult Women

Cancer Diagnosis	Most Common Sexual Problems	Prevalence
Women		
Breast	Overall	30%-100%
	Desire	23%-64%
	Arousal or lubrication	20%–48%
	Orgasm	16%–36%
	Pain/dyspareunia	35%-38%
	Body image concerns	30%-67%
	Poor nipple sensation	> 90%
Gynecologic (ovarian and cervical only)	Overall	≤ 80%

# Sexual Side Effects of Anticancer Treatments in Young Adult Women

- Unlike other side effects, sexual symptoms do not selfresolve
- Untreated sexual dysfunction tends to worsen over time
- Sexual Dysfunction is associated with
  - 1. Anxiety
  - 2. Depression
  - 3. Loss of perceived self-efficacy

## **Integrative Model for Intervention**



## Non-Pharmacological Interventions

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

ORIGINAL REPORT

Efficacy of Internet-Based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Improving Sexual Functioning of Breast Cancer Survivors: Results of a Randomized Controlled Trial

Susanna B. Hummel, Jacques J.D.M. van Lankveld, Hester S.A. Oldenburg, Daniela E.E. Hahn, Jacobien M. Kieffer, Miranda A. Gerritsma, Marianne A. Kuenen, Nina Bijker, Paul J. Borgstein, Gijsbert Heuff, Alexander M.F. Lopes Cardozo, Peter W. Plaisier, Herman Rijna, Suzan van der Meij, Eric J. van Dulken, Bart C. Vrouenraets, Eva Broomans, and Neil K. Aaronson

- Breast cancer survivors (n=169) randomized to internet-based cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) or waiting-list control group
- Internet-based CBT showed to significantly improve:
  - Overall sexual functioning (sexual desire, sexual arousal, sexual pleasure)
  - Vaginal lubrification
  - Body image
  - Menopausal symptoms

## **Non-Pharmacological Interventions**

	Over-the-Counter Pr	oducts	
Water-based lubricants	<ul> <li>Aid in vaginal insertion and manual seasons</li> <li>Safe to use with latex condoms</li> <li>Apply to both partners during sexues</li> <li>Break down easily after washing with Examples: KY Jelly, Astroglide, Erost</li> </ul>	al activity th warm water	and friction
Silicone-based lubricants	<ul> <li>Increase comfort with sexual activity</li> <li>Longer lasting than water-based luk</li> <li>Apply to both partners during sexual</li> <li>Safe to use with latex condoms</li> <li>Cannot be used with silicone sex to</li> <li>Examples: KY Intrigue, Eros Body Gl</li> </ul>	oricants al activity bys	ır Eros
Vaginal moisturizers	<ul> <li>Hydrate vulvo-vaginal tissue</li> <li>Improve dryness, pruritus, elasticity, and irritation</li> <li>Used 3 to 5 times per week</li> <li>Take 2 months to realize full benefit</li> <li>May cause watery discharge</li> </ul>		
	• Examples: Replens, hyaluronic acid,		Therapeutic Approach
		Dilator therapy	<ul> <li>Mechanically stretches vaginal tissue</li> <li>Use to decrease pain with intercourse or gynecologic exams</li> <li>Use to prevent or treat vaginal stenosis/ adhesions</li> <li>Dilators usually come in a set of increasing size</li> <li>Help to reduce anxiety about pain, and increases confidence</li> <li>Use for 5 to 10 minutes several times per week</li> </ul>
		Pelvic floor exercises	<ul> <li>Stretch and relax pelvic floor muscles</li> <li>Improve control and strength of pelvic muscles</li> <li>Use to decrease pain with intercourse or gynecologic exams</li> <li>May promote circulation and pelvic blood flow</li> <li>Daily use recommended</li> </ul>
		Increase blood flow to pelvic floor	<ul> <li>May promote circulation and arousal response</li> <li>May have rehabilitative effects by drawing oxygenated blood</li> <li>Methods include pelvic floor exercises, vibrators, and self-stimulation</li> </ul>

## **Pharmacological Interventions**

Treatment for VVA	Specific Therapy/Use
Vaginal Estrogen	Local (not systemic) therapy Tablet/ring/cream
Vaginal DHEA	Intravaginal ovules (prasterone)
Lidocaine	For insertional pain. Topical application to vestiblule (4% aqueous lidocaine) before sexual activity
Off-label vaginal testosterone	Controversial
Off-label fractional CO <sub>2</sub> laser	No evidence-base for use

Treatment for Low Desire	Mechanism of Action
Flibanserin (daily use at bedtime)	5-HT1A serotonin receptor agonist and 5-HT2A receptor antagonist
Bremalanotide (on-demand use)	Melanocortin 1 & 4 receptor agonist

**Courtesy of Sharon Bober, PhD** 

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### **Conclusions**

- Fertility preservation and sexuality are priority areas of concern for young adult cancer patients
- As early as possible after diagnosis, a proper oncofertility counseling is mandatory to inform all women irrespectively of the stage of their disease
- Embryo/oocyte cryopreservation are standard options for fertility preservation
- Ovarian tissue cryopreservation remains experimental in most of the countries but may be discussed in specific circumstances
- Temporary ovarian suppression with GnRHa during chemotherapy should now be considered an available option to preserve ovarian function and potential fertility in young breast cancer patients (but not an alternative to cryopreservation techniques)
- More attention should be paid to sexuality in cancer survivors;
   integrative treatment model suggested for addressing sexual dysfunction

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