

Diamond Institute for Infertility and Menopause

May 2013

Dear Patients, Physicians, Staff Members and Friends of Diamond Institute

“Hand in Hand with Patients” The Assistance You Require With The Care You Desire,

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The Diamond Institute is celebrating its 45th Anniversary and would like to welcome our Diamond Families to our Annual Family Day Party. The Diamond Institute recently started providing fertility preservation services at CMMC Oncology Center.

We are dedicating this month's newsletter to fertility preservation for cancer patients.

The rapid changes happening in medical care for cancer patients as well as the means for early diagnosis of the disease gives hope for remission and a cure.

Every year in the United States there are approximately 70 thousand new cases of cancer diagnosed in children and people who are of reproductive age. When asked 80% of them reported concerns regarding loss of future fertility, and at least one third indicate a desire to have children of their own in the future.

The major concern is the effect cancer treatment has on egg and sperm availability for future reproduction.

As a result of the aforementioned the American Society of Clinical Oncology recommends that oncology patients consult a reproductive specialist regarding their options for fertility preservation. Timing is critical in order to achieve the goal of preserving eggs, embryo and/or ovarian tissue, as well as preserving sperm prior to cancer treatment.

When a patient receives a new diagnosis of cancer their efforts are understandably to preserve life, while not focusing on their future plans to start a family.

However, over 90% of cancer survivors who have attempted fertility preservation felt very good about their decision. The decision helped them to

keep hope about future survival and the future of having children.

The fact that over half of the men and about one third of the women with cancer before the age of 30 will have children in the future, makes fertility preservation a hopeful solution.

Some of the concerns the Oncologist as well as the patients have are:

- **Can fertility preservation be accomplished without significant delay in Cancer treatment?**

Yes, a randomized study concluded that close collaboration between the Oncologist and Infertility specialists are essential to achieving this goal.

- **Does a short delay in starting cancer treatment have any effect on the patients' recovery?**

The answer to this question is related to the patients' specific type of cancer and medical condition. However, some studies have compared a patient with breast cancer who started chemotherapy treatment immediately to some that delayed up to three months and indicated no difference between the groups as far as remission and/or recovering from cancer.

- **Does the process of fertility preservation treatment reduce the patients' chance for recovery of cancer?** *There is no indication that the fertility preservation process has any negative effects on the patients*



cancer situation.

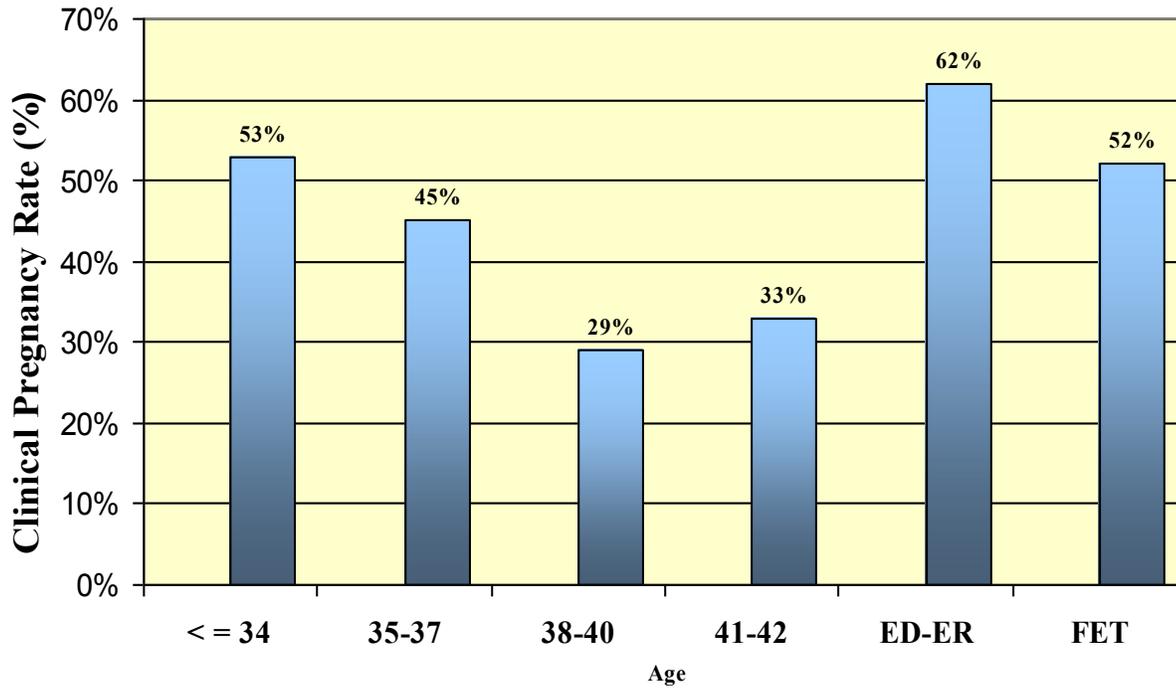
- **Are children born to a mother who has had cancer before at a higher risk for medical problems?**

No, a study of patients post breast cancer show no increase of any type of malformation.

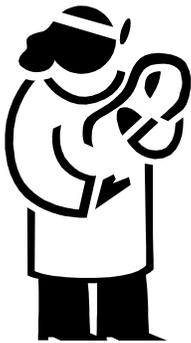
- **So how can we help?**

We should all be aware about fertility preservation options versus other options such as egg donation, gestational carrier or sperm donation. We should consult our patients about their options sooner than later when cancer has been diagnosed. We, as the Infertility specialists, should be available for cancer patients in their environment of care. We should be a part of the oncology, surgical, social and psychological services offered to the patients. We should have a presence in the Oncology center to consult patients' regarding fertility preservation and to help keep the hope of future reproduction.

Pregnancy Outcomes (2006-2012)



ED-ER: Egg Donor- Egg Recipient Cycle
FET: Frozen Embryo Transfer



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