

Family-Building Options for Women

This overview of fertility preservation and parenthood options for cancer patients is based on published literature. Success rates may vary from clinic to clinic and depending on individual patient characteristics. Visit [LIVESTRONG.org/Fertility](https://www.livestrong.org/Fertility) for more resources, including financial aid options.

**Experimental*

METHOD	DEFINITION	TIMING	TIME REQ.	AVERAGE SUCCESS RATES	AVERAGE COST	PUBERTAL STAGE	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS
EMBRYO FREEZING	Maturing and harvesting eggs, in vitro fertilization of eggs to create embryos, freezing of embryos	Before treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx. 2 weeks from the start of menstrual cycle • Outpatient procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% - 40% result in a live birth; varies by maternal age & reproductive center • Thousands of babies born each year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National average \$12,400 per cycle of IVF • Storage costs \$400 per year 	After puberty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most established technique • Need male partner or donor sperm
EGG FREEZING	Maturing and harvesting eggs, freezing of unfertilized eggs	Before treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx. 2 weeks from the start of menstrual cycle • Outpatient procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical pregnancy rate = 36% - 61% per transfer • 1000+ live births 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National average \$11,900 per cycle • Storage costs \$300 per year 	After puberty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered in approx. 50%-60% fertility centers • Clinician experience with technique important
OVARIAN TISSUE FREEZING*	Removal of ovarian tissue (complete or partial ovary), freezing of tissue for later reimplantation of tissue or in vitro maturation of eggs	Before treatment	Outpatient surgical procedure	Approx. 28 live births worldwide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10,000 • Tissue storage costs \$300 per year. Costs may be reduced due to experimental nature, insurance may cover some costs 	Before or after puberty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not suitable if patient at high risk for ovarian metastases • Only preservation option for pre-pubescent girls
OVARIAN TRANSPOSITION	Repositioning of ovaries out of radiation field	Before treatment	Surgical (usually laparoscopic) procedure	79%-100% rate of protection of ovarian function	Unknown; may be covered by insurance	Before or after puberty	Does not protect against effects of chemotherapy
OVARIAN SUPPRESSION*	Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone (GnRH) analog used to suppress ovaries	Before and during treatment	Ideally started 2-4 weeks before chemotherapy	Unknown; conflicting results reported	\$500 per month	After puberty	Does not protect against effects of radiation
RADICAL TRACHELECTOMY	Removal of cervix with preservation of uterus	Type of treatment	Surgical procedure	No evidence of higher cancer recurrence rates in appropriate candidates	Generally included in cost of cancer treatment	After puberty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicable for early stage cervical cancer only • Available at limited number of cancer centers
DONOR EGGS	Unfertilized eggs donated by a young woman, eggs fertilized with male partner's or donor's sperm	After treatment	Varies; done in conjunction with IVF	35% (frozen eggs) - 55% (fresh) result in live birth	Approximately \$22,000 for IVF with donor eggs	After puberty	Patient can select egg donor based on specific physical traits or characteristics
DONOR EMBRYOS	Embryos donated by a couple who have completed IVF treatment	After treatment	Varies	Unknown; similar to frozen embryo IVF transfers	\$5,000	After puberty	Donor couples and recipient couples matched through fertility clinics or private agencies
SURROGACY/ GESTATIONAL CARRIER	Woman carries a pregnancy for another woman or couple	After treatment	Varies; time required to find surrogate and implant embryos	Slightly higher success rates than standard IVF across all age groups	\$60,000-\$80,000	After puberty	Legal status of gestational surrogacy contracts varies by state
ADOPTION	Process that creates a legal parent-child relationship	After treatment	Varies depending on type of adoption	N/A	\$0-\$40,000+ depending on type of adoption	After puberty	Cancer history may be a factor

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