

Sperm Banking

Is it right for me?

Treatment for cancer and some other diseases can sometimes make it hard or impossible to father a baby later on in life. Because of this, sperm banking might be a good choice.

“Sperm banking” means freezing and storing some of your sperm. This is done in special freezers at places called “sperm banks.”

Treatment for cancer and some other diseases can sometimes make it harder or impossible for you to father a baby later on. Some people are not sure whether or not they want to father a baby someday. Even if you do not know yet, it might be a good idea to bank your sperm just in case.

What are some of the questions that other teens or young adults have asked?

It can be hard to know just what to ask when things already feel stressful. Here are some things that other teens and young adults have wanted to know. Feel free to ask your provider any of these questions. It can be a little embarrassing, but they will tell you what you need to know.

- What is sperm banking?
- After treatment, will I be able to have kids later in my life?
- What are some of the reasons that I might want to do sperm banking?
- How much time do I have to decide?
- Are there any reasons why I would not want to do sperm banking?

Here are some questions and answers to help you get ready if you think you want to choose to bank your sperm.

Q: What do I do?

- A. If you think you want to bank your sperm, tell your healthcare provider. Then, you will talk to someone who knows a lot about sperm banking. They can answer your questions and help to arrange an appointment for you.

Q: When do I have to do it?

- A. It is best to do sperm banking before treatment starts. There might be other times that will also work. You can talk to you healthcare team about this.

Q: Where do I go?

- A. There are 2 sperm banks in Seattle. You can work with your healthcare team to find out which is the best one for you. We can help you figure out how you can get there.

To Learn More

- AYA Team
206-987-4291
- Hem/Onc Clinic
206-987-2106
- Ask your healthcare provider
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.
- For Deaf and hard of hearing callers
206-987-2280 (TTY)

Q: How much will it cost me or my family?

A. It costs money to collect the sperm and to store it. There are also some ways to get help with paying. Your healthcare team will talk to you and your parents or caregivers more about how much it will cost. They will also help you with other options if you need them.

Q: How will I get it later on?

A. When you are ready and if you need it, you can call the sperm bank. They will help you to arrange getting your sperm. They will also help you to understand how and when to use it.

Q: Who can use my sperm sample?

A. Only you. You can talk with your healthcare provider more about this, but you are always in charge of your stored sperm. The sperm bank will also talk to you about what will happen to the sperm you have stored if anything happens to you or if you do not need it in the future.

How can I find out more?

It is a good idea to talk to your healthcare team to find out more. There are also a lot of good websites and other kinds of information that you can look at. But remember, it is important to decide soon. Be sure you ask any questions you have right away.

Here are some good places to look for more about sperm banking:

- www.MyOncofertility.org - A Web site that offers resources to find out more about how treatment affects fertility and what you can do about it
- www.KidsHealth.org/teen - Follow links to Diseases & Conditions>Cancer & Tumors>Can I Have Children After Cancer Treatments?