

Sperm Banking

Is it right for me?

Starting a family may be the furthest thing from your mind right now. But, sometimes cancer treatments can make it harder or impossible to have a baby later in life. There are things that you can do before you start cancer treatment to make a pregnancy more likely in the future. Talk with your oncologist about how likely it is for your treatment to affect your sperm and what options you have for sperm banking.

What is sperm banking?

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

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

What do I do?

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.

When do I have to bank my sperm?

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

Where do I go?

There is more than one sperm bank 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.

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To Learn More

- Cancer and Blood Disorders
206-987-2106
- Ask your child’s healthcare provider
- 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.



Sperm Banking: Is It Right For Me?

How much will it cost me or my family?

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.

When can I use my sperm?

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.

Who can use my sperm sample?

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:

- **MyOncofertility.org**
A website that offers resources to find out more about how treatment affects fertility and what you can do about it
- **KidsHealth.org/teen**
Use the menu to find the Diseases & Conditions page. In the Cancer Center, search for “Can I have Children After Cancer Treatments.”