

Sexuality and Medical Therapies: Pregnancy

Chemotherapy and radiation treatments can be very harmful to a fetus. Even if you are not having your period, it is possible that you could still become pregnant. If you are having sex, it is very important that you use birth control while on treatment. Please also refer to the Seattle Children's flyer called "Sexuality and Medical Therapies: My Sex Life" PE920.

Pregnancy



Is it possible to get pregnant during treatment?

YES

Could I become pregnant even if I stopped having my period?

YES

It is possible that you will stop having your periods during your chemotherapy. Ovulation can still happen so you can get pregnant even if you are not having a period.

Will my healthcare team be able to find out if I am already pregnant?

YES

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

Different medical therapies can cause harm to a fetus. It is important to use birth control if you are having sex when undergoing treatment. Talk to your doctor to learn more about your options.



The Fetus



Can medical therapies be harmful to a fetus (growing baby)?

YES

Medical therapies can cause birth defects and cause other serious problems. These treatments, medicines and tests include:

- Chemotherapy
- Radiation
- X-rays
- CT scans
- Nuclear medicine scans
- Immunosuppressive drugs

Birth Control



If I am having sex, should I use birth control while on treatment?

YES

Your provider can help you decide what birth control is best with your diagnosis and medicines. Your cancer team may refer you to another team, either Adolescent Medicine or Gynecology to help make these decisions.

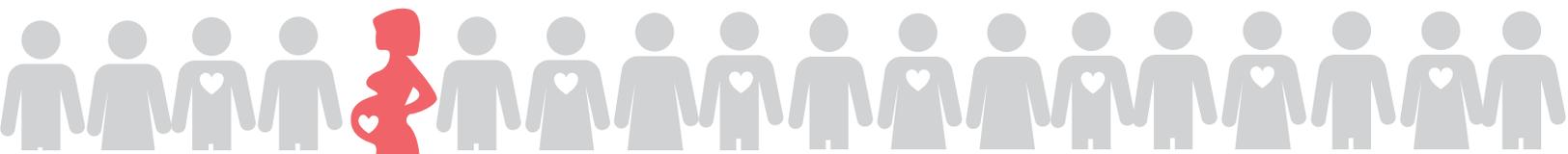
If I am already on birth control, do I still need to use a condom?

YES

Using condoms is extremely important. Even if you are already on other birth control, use them. Condoms help prevent sexually transmitted infections (STI). It is dangerous time to get a STI.

Will my medical therapy influence my options for birth control?

YES



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