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## Fertile Future: Fertility Preservation News

**While You Focus On Your Patient's Treatment,  
We Will Focus On Preserving His or Her Future Family Options**

With our simple, flexible storage options, we ensure all your patients are able to keep their reproductive options open.

Through California Cryobank's Fertile Future program, comprehensive semen, egg and embryo storage services have never been more accessible to your patients.

In this issue, we are excited to share with you the latest studies on sperm banking for cancer patients along with a new feature, "Ask Dr. Sims", for commonly asked questions on fertility preservation.

### Fertility Preservation for Testicular Cancer Patients

*Fertility Preservation for Testicular Cancer Patients*  
*Insciences Journal*  
*April 1st, 2009*

Men facing a diagnosis of testicular cancer should take a few days to consider how to preserve their fertility before launching into chemotherapy or radiation.



That's the view of Daniel Williams, M.D., an assistant professor of urology with the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. Williams led a recent study that showed testicular cancer affects sperm quality.

"Because of advances in treatment, young men of reproductive age who get testicular cancer have excellent survival rates," says Williams, an urologist and male fertility specialist at UW Hospital and Clinics. "Because of this, it's very important for us to also focus on quality of life after treatment."

For Williams, that discussion begins by offering sperm cryopreservation before treatment begins. Williams' own research shows there's good reason to do so.

### Cancer Treatments Can Compromise Fertility

Leading a team of researchers in California and Texas, Williams examined semen analyses from more than 400 men with several different types of cancer. All chose to bank their sperm before undergoing treatment. The results showed that men with non-testicular cancer generally had normal sperm counts and motility. The samples of men with testicular cancer, however, showed something quite different.

"What we found was that young men with testicular cancer are still making sperm, but their sperm

counts were significantly lower than men with other types of cancers," says Williams.

On top of having lower sperm counts to begin with, cancer treatments can make fertility matters worse. According to Williams, about 10-15 percent of men who undergo chemotherapy and/or radiation treatment will have their ability to make sperm wiped out completely-and it's impossible to predict which patients will have their sperm permanently damaged by treatment. There's also the question of the quality of sperm after chemotherapy and radiation....

### **Fertility Preservation Critical Component of Cancer Care**

Williams believes that a discussion of fertility preservation should be a critical component of cancer care. In some situations, he says, oncologists are often and understandably focused on beginning cancer treatment immediately.

"While patients are obviously overwhelmed by a cancer diagnosis and many are quite ill at the time of diagnosis, I encourage them to let the information about fertility preservation sink in," says Williams, who notes that two to three days are usually enough time to obtain good samples for banking. "Once patients are able to focus on their long-term treatment strategies, they're really appreciative that we've discussed this."...

[Insciences Journal Article](#)

### **Ask Dr. Sims**



California Cryobank's Medical Director and Co-Founder, Dr. Charles Sims, is here to answer your most commonly asked questions about sperm banking.

#### **Question:**

How long can sperm, eggs and embryos be stored for and still remain viable?

#### **Answer:**

We believe that human sperm, eggs and embryos can be safely stored for hundreds of years provided that they are continuously maintained at cryogenic temperatures. This is based upon theoretical calculations done by cryobiologists. This technology dates back to about 1947 with the discovery that glycerol provides protection to cells during freezing. Bull sperm has been successfully used after about 40 years of storage, human sperm for 28 years, umbilical cord blood stem cells after 17 years of storage. These are offered as examples where there has been actual cryogenic storage, thawing and restoration of full function of the cells. On a purely theoretical basis, there is reason to believe that human cells could be safely stored for more than 2000 years.

Please feel free to email your fertility preservation question to [Dr. Sims](#)

### **About California Cryobank: Fertile Future Program**



Founded in 1977, California Cryobank (CCB) is a leading sperm bank dedicated to providing physicians and their patients with a comprehensive resource for semen, embryo and oocyte (egg) cryopreservation services. Physician owned and operated under a strict code of ethics, CCB has helped individuals with their reproductive needs for over 30 years.

CCB is now one of the largest laboratories of its kind due to our focus on quality and service. We are accredited by the AATB (American Association of Tissue Banking), CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment), licensed by the California and New York health departments and compliant with all FDA regulations.

Thank you for continuing to raise fertility preservation awareness.

[California Cryobank: Fertile Future Storage Site](#)

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a place for young adults affected by cancer



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