

Preservation of Fertility in Pediatric and Adolescent Patients With Cancer

Mary E. Fallat, MD, John Hutter, MD, the Committee on Bioethics, Section on Hematology/Oncology, and Section on Surgery

ABSTRACT

Many cancers that present in children and adolescents are curable with surgery, chemotherapy, and/or radiation therapy. Potential adverse consequences of treatment include sterility, infertility, or subfertility as a result of either gonad removal or damage to germ cells from adjuvant therapy. In recent years, treatment of solid tumors and hematologic malignancies has been modified in an attempt to reduce damage to the gonads. Simultaneously, advances in assisted reproductive techniques have led to new possibilities for the prevention and treatment of infertility. This technical report reviews the topic of fertility preservation in pediatric and adolescent patients with cancer, including ethical considerations.