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“Views of Reproductive-Aged Female Cancer Patients on Oncofertility Care”

Due to advancements in treatment options, the rate of survivorship from gynecological cancer has improved over recent years. This has allowed patients to have the opportunity to prioritize many quality of life issues. Naturally, one such issue among reproductive-aged females is preservation of fertility following management of their cancer diagnosis. Since many cancer treatment options have the potential to negatively impact future fertility, including loss of fertility, it is important for patients to be informed on the matter and have appropriate discussion with their physician.

Unfortunately, studies show that almost 50% of women with cancer are unaware about how their cancer therapy can impact their ability to have kids in the future. There is some data that takes into account the physician perspective on this issue and sheds lights on reasons preservation of fertility is not discussed at length with patients. These reasons include perceived lack of patient interest, lack of time, inadequate knowledge on the topic, perceived patient financial hardships, and perceived poor rate of success.

However, there is currently minimal data discussing the patient's perspective on this issue and what they deem important when it comes to preserving fertility in light of a cancer diagnosis. In order to improve patient counseling after the diagnosis of cancer, we propose pursuing a survey assessment of local reproductive-aged female cancer patients to evaluate their views on preserving fertility and management of their cancer diagnosis. We hope to perform a survey assessment of local reproductive-aged female cancer patients to evaluate perspectives on preserving fertility and management of their cancer diagnosis. Following this we will assess the current rate of fertility counseling amongst local reproductive-aged female cancer patients. Lastly, we will assess if perceived patient factors mentioned in prior studies on physician perspectives on this topic align with factors mentioned by patients themselves.