



The Advanced Fertility  
Preservation Institute

# Knowing Your Fertility Options

**SPERM PRESERVATION  
AND YOUR  
CANCER DIAGNOSIS**

Being newly diagnosed with cancer is devastating and overwhelming. There are so many things to think about before starting treatment. However, quite often fertility preservation is overlooked. That's where we come in.

The Advanced Fertility Preservation Institute was founded by world-renowned infertility expert and minimally invasive reproductive surgeon, Dr. Charles Miller. Dr. Miller has been helping patients preserve their fertility for almost 40 years.

We understand that not only is this a difficult time, but that time is also of the essence. This is why we will strive to set up a fertility preservation consultation with newly diagnosed patients within 48 hours of initial outreach to our office.

[drcharlesmiller.com](http://drcharlesmiller.com)

## What Is Fertility Preservation?

### SPERM PRESERVATION

Sperm preservation uses advanced technology that allows you to freeze and store your sperm in subzero temperatures. Later, when you are ready for children, the sperm can be thawed and placed inside the uterus (intrauterine insemination) or used to fertilize an egg that will be transferred to the uterus for development and subsequent pregnancy (intracytoplasmic sperm injection). Frozen sperm can be stored and remain viable indefinitely. However, every instance is unique and the amount of viable sperm may vary from person to person.

### EMBRYO PRESERVATION

Embryo preservation is also an advanced technology that allows you to freeze and store embryos in subzero temperatures. Embryos are the result of fertilization of the eggs with sperm. Should you choose to create embryos, your partner or egg donor will work with our team to create an egg retrieval plan.

Prior to freezing, you may wish to genetically test the embryos. These embryos are frozen and stored in our facility. Dr. Miller has been involved in embryo freezing since the early 1990s and our facility in Naperville has been freezing embryos since it opened in September 2001.



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## Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment

When it comes to treating cancer, doctors want to make sure they are as aggressive as needed to treat the patient. Cancer treatment, while beneficial, can often be detrimental to future fertility.

The impact of cancer on fertility may be due to various reasons:

- Cancers of the endocrine glands or endocrine-related organs may impair the hormones that stimulate puberty and fertility.
- Surgery that requires removal of the affected area, including the prostate (which makes semen), bladder, one or both testicles or the pelvic lymph nodes, may compromise fertility. Damage to the pelvic nerves and vasculature (blood vessels) during surgery may also affect fertility.
- Cancer treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation may damage sperm, inhibit the ability to make new sperm or stop the production of semen.



## What to Expect: Sperm Preservation

### INITIAL PHONE CALL

After diagnosis, your first step is to call our office and register as a patient with our front office coordinators. They will outline the process and schedule you for your sperm cryopreservation appointment and infectious disease testing (if you have not completed that within the past 90 days). Our office will also provide you with information on how to register with a long-term semen storage facility we work with. This takes only a few minutes to complete.

Once you have completed registration, our Fertility Preservation Coordinator (FPC) will contact you to discuss any questions you may have.

### SPERM COLLECTION, TESTING, EVALUATION AND STORAGE

The sperm preservation process is quite simple. An appointment will be arranged to preserve the sperm. If your residence is within 45 minutes of the office, sperm collection can be performed in the privacy of your home. However, most of our male patients choose to come to our office, where a private semen collection room is available for your use.



Semen must be collected through masturbation after abstinence of 3-5 days.

Sperm will then be tested and evaluated based on volume and viscosity of semen, sperm count and motility (swimming speed). Results will be communicated to you.

Adequate sperm will be separated and cryopreserved in subzero temperatures. Immediately after they are frozen, your sperm will be placed into one of our liquid nitrogen storage containers for safekeeping at the storage facility. You should expect to come into the office 2-3 times if possible, at least three days apart should you decide to store multiple vials.

If you plan on freezing embryos, you will provide a sample at the time of your partner's egg retrieval. The sperm will be used to fertilize the extracted, matured eggs. Embryos will also undergo analysis and will be stored in our state-of-the-art facility. In our facility, we have had success using embryos that have been preserved for nearly 15 years.

## About Charles E. Miller, MD, FACOG



Dr. Charles E. Miller is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and is in private practice in metropolitan Chicago.

An internationally renowned expert in the treatment of fertility, including in-vitro fertilization (IVF), endometriosis and the performance of minimally invasive reproductive surgery, Dr. Miller has been in practice for 39 years.

He is the founder, president, and medical director of The Advanced IVF Institute, The Advanced Gynecologic Surgery Institute, Charles E. Miller, MD & Associates and The Advanced Fertility Preservation Institute which was developed to specialize in the egg fertility preservation process.

Given Dr. Miller's interest and expertise in egg freezing, he was appointed the Consulting Reproductive Endocrinologist of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital's Hematopoietic Progenitor Cell Transplantation (HPCT) Program. Dr. Miller currently holds the position of Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology - Department of Clinical Sciences, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science.

## HOW TO GET STARTED

*To learn more about fertility preservation and how we can help you:*

- Visit our website and fill out a consultation request form at [www.drcharlesmiller.com](http://www.drcharlesmiller.com)
- Call us at **630-428-2229** to schedule a phone consultation with our Fertility Preservation Coordinator. From the onset of your journey, financial counselors are also readily available to discuss options with you.
- Our goal is to have a consultation with you **within 48 hours** of initial outreach.



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