

Abstract geometric lines in the top left corner, consisting of several thin black lines forming overlapping, irregular polygons and triangles.

FERTILITY PRESERVATION – THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

Stephanie Gunderson MD



OBJECTIVES

- Understand who should be offered fertility preservation
- Understand which treatments affect the ovaries
- Review options for females undergoing gonadotoxic treatment
- Discuss outcomes as it relates to fertility preservation treatment options
- Briefly review cost of fertility preservation options



I HAVE NOTHING TO
DISCLOSE

INTRODUCTION

70,000 AYA (15-39 YO) cancer diagnoses a year in the US

Survival rates are increasing
(some 5-year survivals are as high as 80%)

We need a plan for the future!

ASCO guidelines recommend that all patients of childbearing age be offered fertility preservation services

WHO SHOULD BE OFFERED FERTILITY PRESERVATION SERVICES?

Cancer – before or after treatment

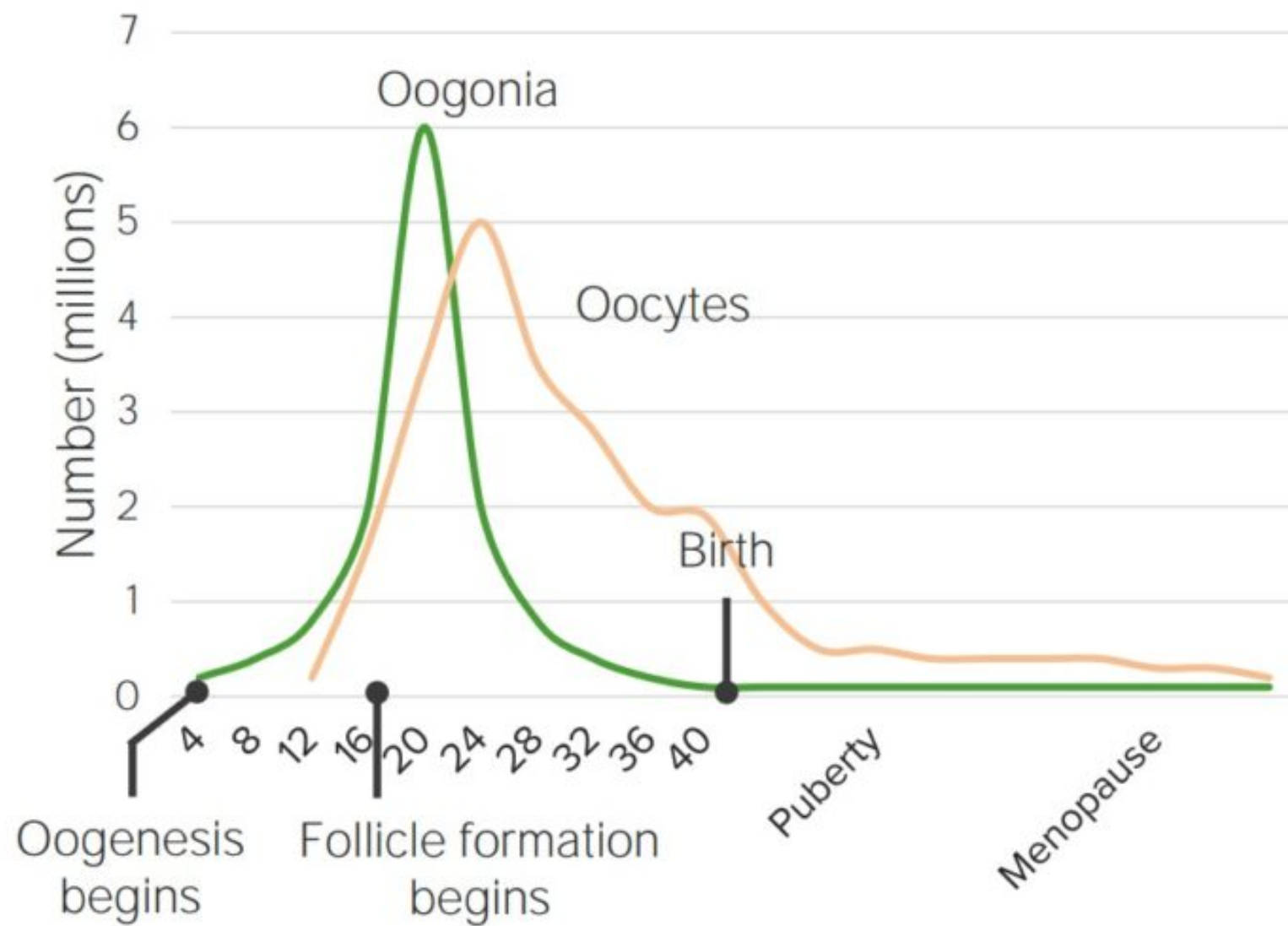
Nonmalignant conditions requiring treatment with gonadotoxic therapy– examples being rheumatoid arthritis, vasculitis, renal disease

Severe hemoglobinopathies requiring stem cell transplant

Congenital/genetic conditions- Fragile X premutation carriers, Turner's syndrome

Gender dysphoria

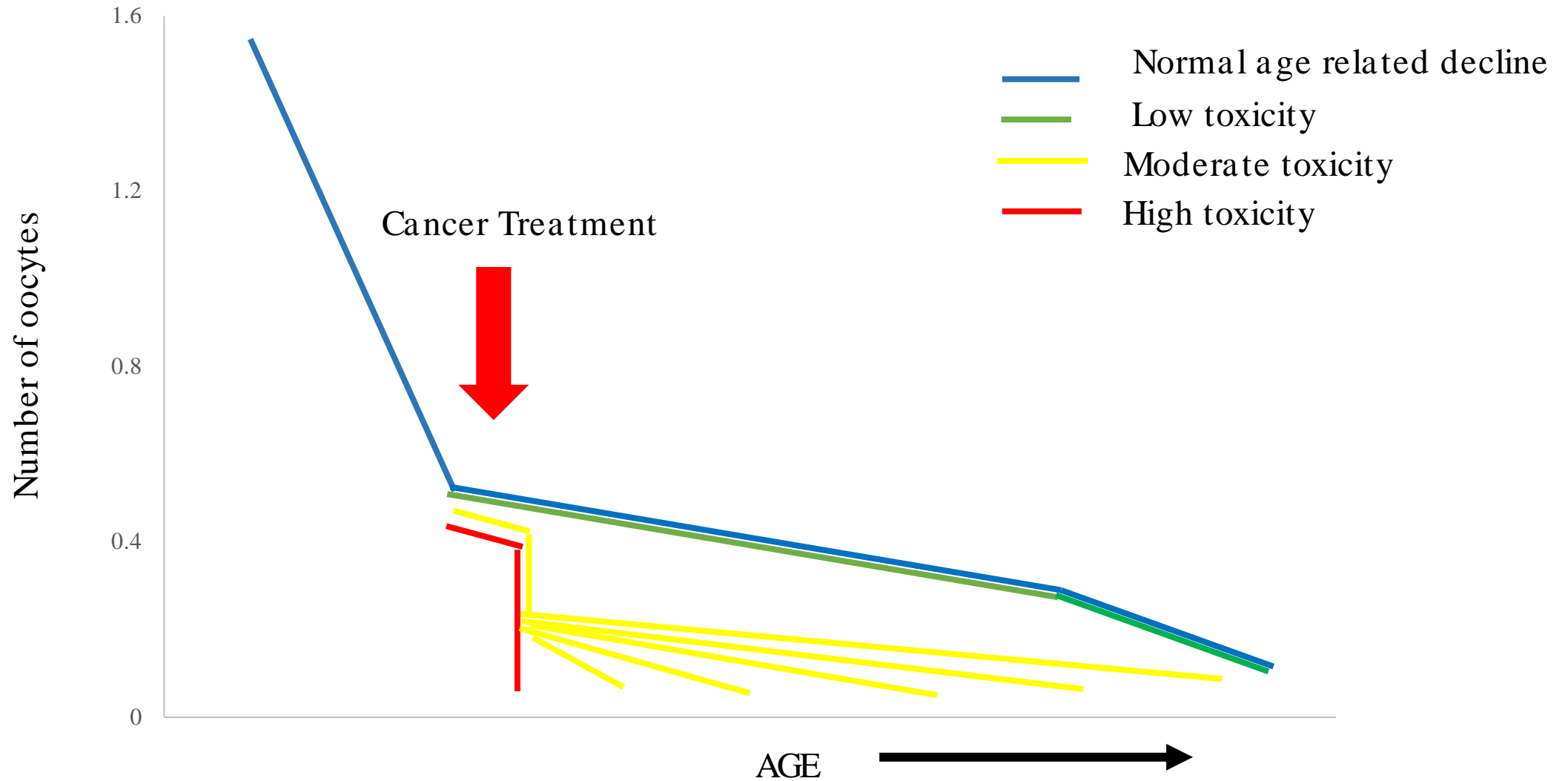
Anyone wanting to preserve their fertility!



WHO IS AT RISK?

			Minimally Increased Risk	Significantly Increased risk	High level of Increased risk
Alkylators CED* gm/m2	Prepubertal		CED < 8	8-12	> 12
	Pubertal		CED < 4	4-8	>8
Heavy Metal			Cisplatin Carboplatin		
Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant					Alkylator +/-Total body irradiation Myeloablative and Reduced intensity regimens
Radiation exposure	Ovary	Prepubertal		< 15 Gy	≥ 15 Gy
		Pubertal		< 10 Gy	≥ 10 Gy
	Hypothalamus		22-29.9	> 30-39.9 Gy	> 40 Gy

WHAT IS THE RISK?



RISK OF PREMATURE OVARIAN INSUFFICIENCY

- 921 participants
- Median age 31.7
- Median years after cancer diagnosis was 24.

Exposure	Dose	HR	95%CI
Ovarian RT	<1000 cGY	13.85	6.5-29.51
	>1000 cGY	132.34	62.88-278.53
CED	8,000-11,999 mg/m ²	2.77	1.18-6.51
	12,000-19,999 mg/m ²	3.9	1.8-8.43
	>20,000 mg/m ²	4.13	1.63-10.5

RISK OF PREMATURE OVARIAN INSUFFICIENCY

POI (n = 100)

Characteristic	N	n ^a	%	HR	CI	P Value
Age at cancer diagnosis (years) ^b						
Mean (SD)		8.10 (5.57)		1.02	0.98–1.06	0.41
Oophoropexy						
No	863	80	9.27	1.00		
Yes	58	20	34.48	0.72	0.42–1.23	0.23
Body mass index						
≥18.5–24.99 kg/m ²	338	42	12.43	1.00		
<18.5 kg/m ²	43	12	27.91	1.87	0.97–3.59	0.06
25.0–29.9 kg/m ²	224	29	12.95	0.92	0.56–1.52	0.74
≥30 kg/m ²	316	17	5.38	0.36	0.20–0.65	0.001
Treatment exposure						
No alkylating agent nor ovarian radiotherapy	318 ^c	2	0.63	1.00		
Alkylating agent only	400 ^c	8	2.00	2.98	0.63–14.06	0.17
Ovarian radiotherapy only	59 ^c	17	28.81	71.70	16.50–311.58	<0.001
Both	141 ^c	73	51.77	95.56	23.30–391.93	<0.001

REDUCED INTENSITY CONDITIONING FOR SCT

- Traditional conditioning for SCT results in POI 95-100% of the time
- RIC resulted in POI 86.3% and amenorrhea was seen in 68.1%

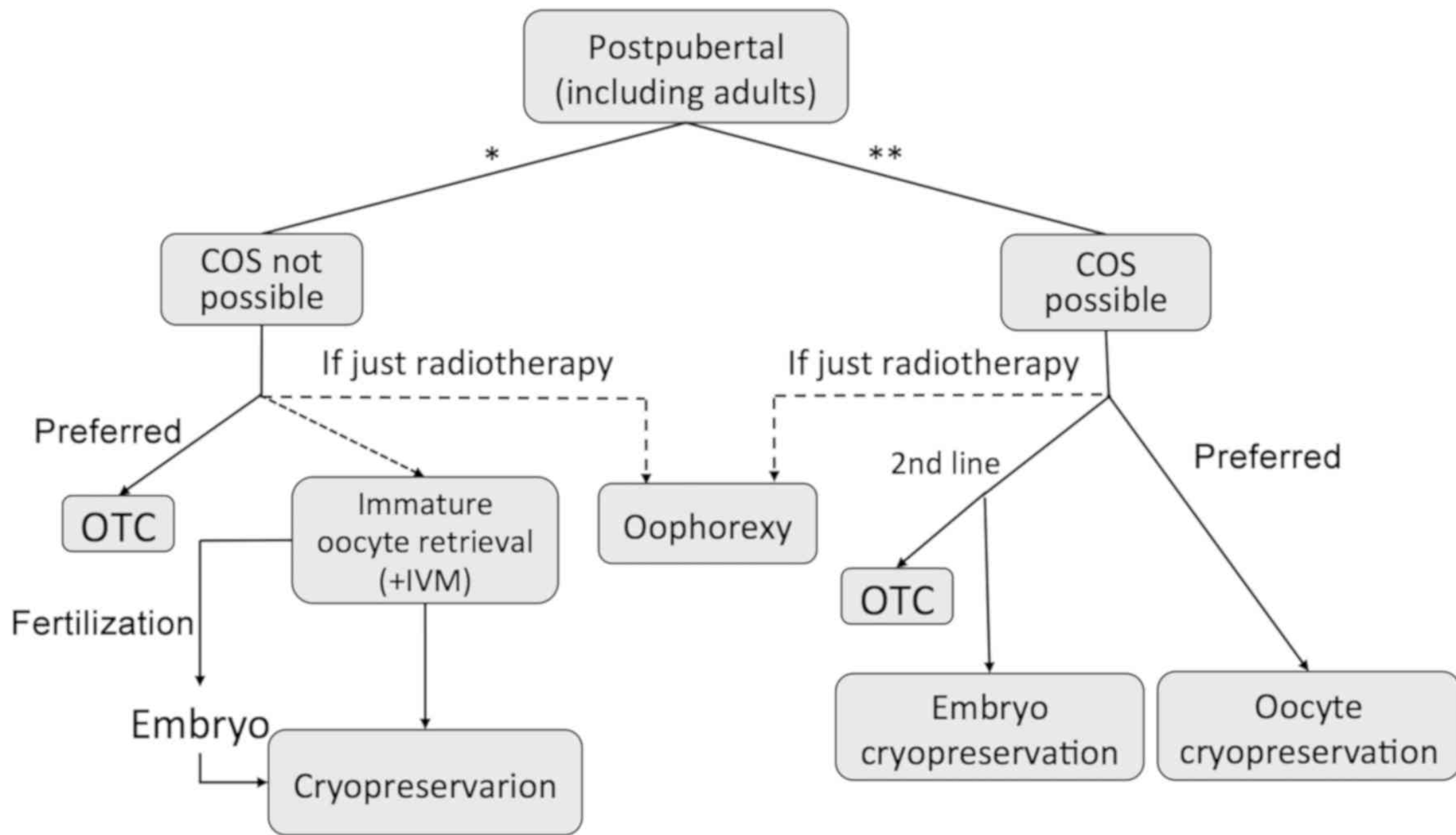
CED calculators

[FERTILITY RISK CALCULATOR -
FERTILITY PRESERVATION PROGRAM
IN PITTSBURGH \(.ORG\)
FERTILITYPRESERVATIONPITTSBURGH](#)

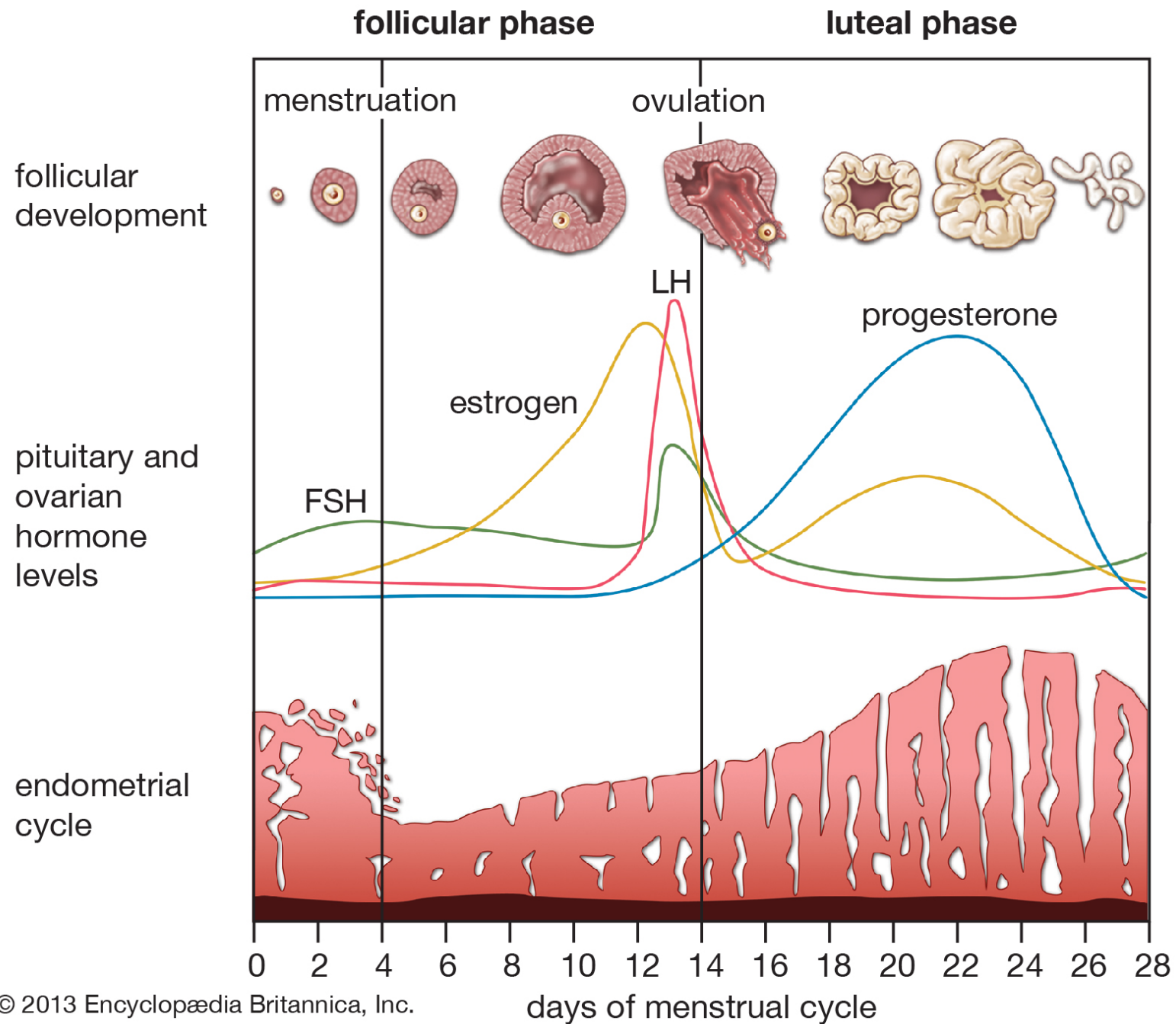
POSTPUBERTAL FEMALES

Oocyte cryopreservation

Embryo cryopreservation



The menstrual cycle



ASSESSING OVARIAN RESERVE

Day 2/3 FSH and estradiol in menstruating patients

FSH > 10 mIU/mL, E2 > 70 pg/mL
= diminished ovarian reserve

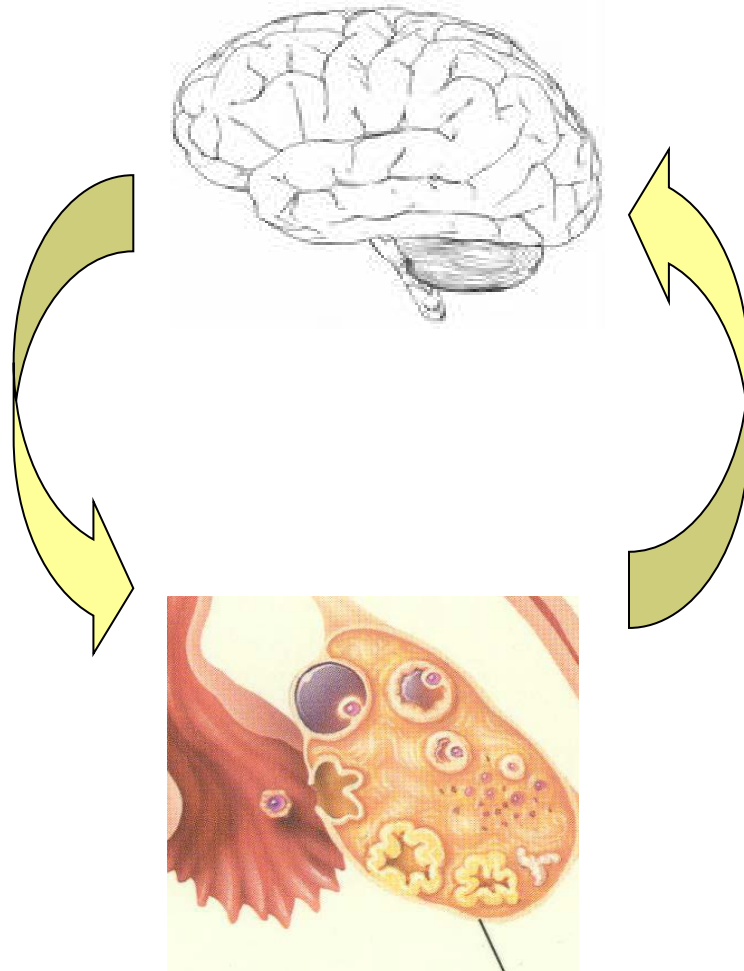
Random level in amenorrheic patient

Anti-müllerian Hormone

Antral follicle Count



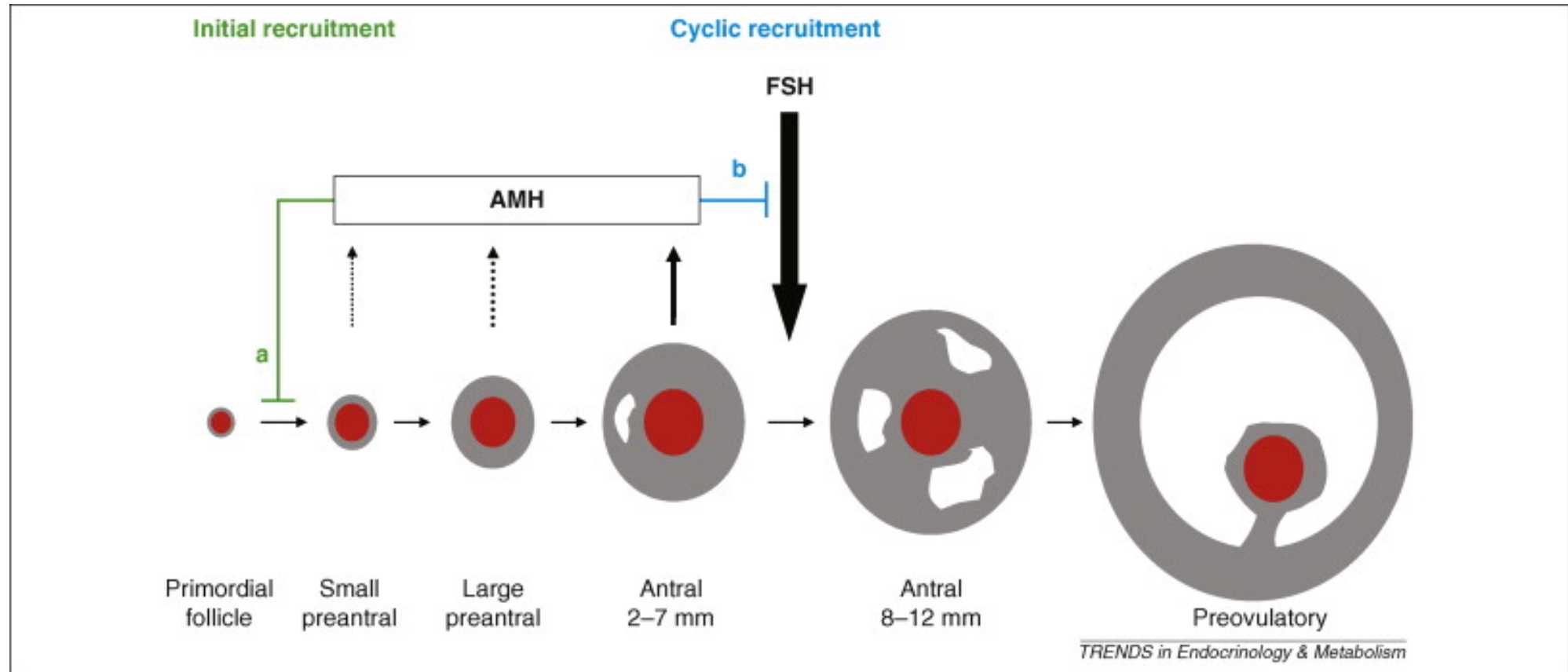
**FSH
LH
+**



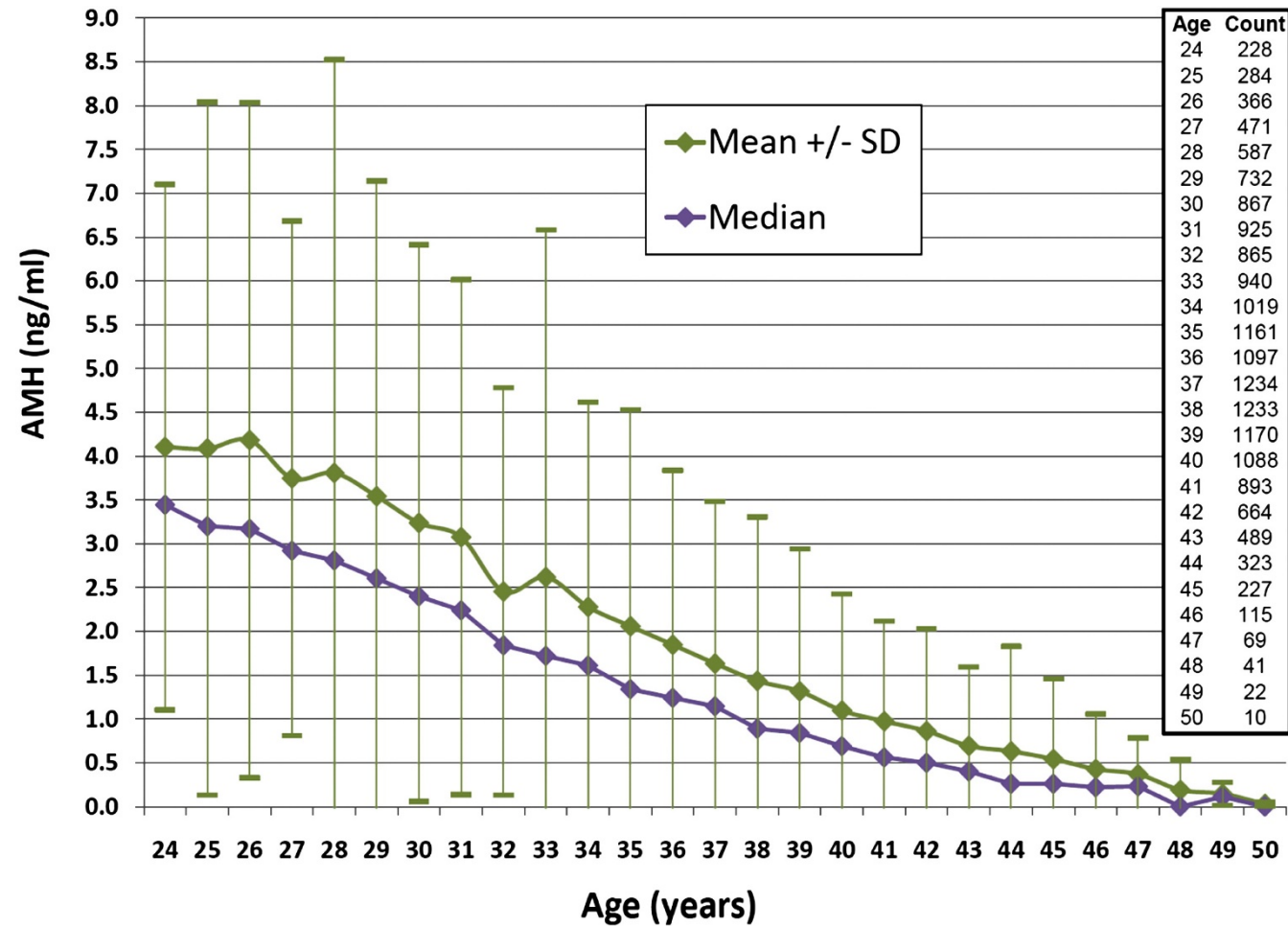
**Estradiol
-**

Normal:
FSH < 10 mIU/mL
Estradiol < 70 pg/ml

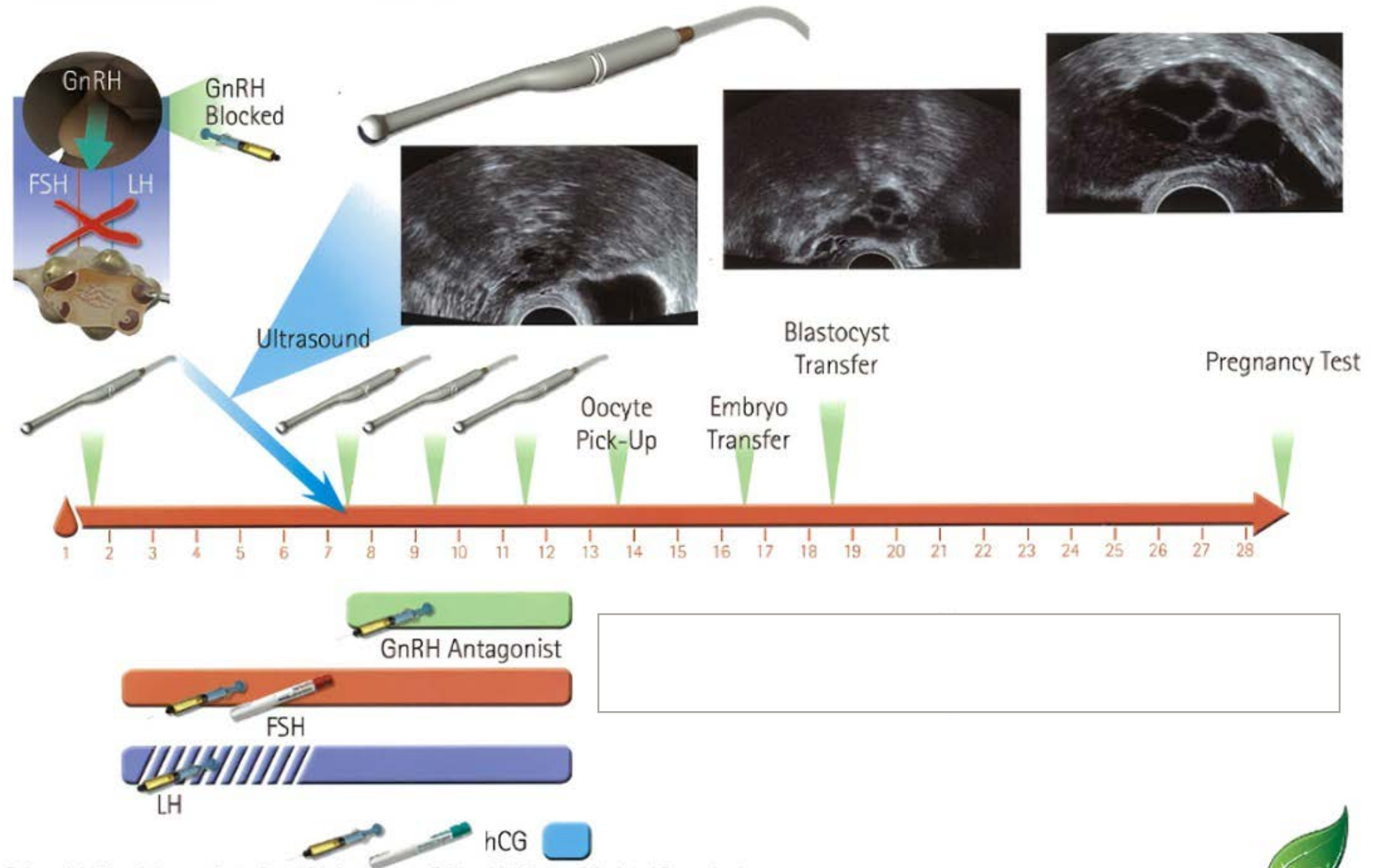
ANTI-MULLERIAN HORMONE



AGE SPECIFIC AMH LEVELS



GnRH Antagonist Protocol



INVITRO FERTILIZATION

- 10-14 days of injections
- Injections are subcutaneous
- Frequent ultrasounds and blood work
- Side effects: abdominal bloating, pelvic discomfort, headache, nausea, emotional lability

OOCYTE CRYOPRESERVATION



RANDOM START



GnRH Antagonist Protocol

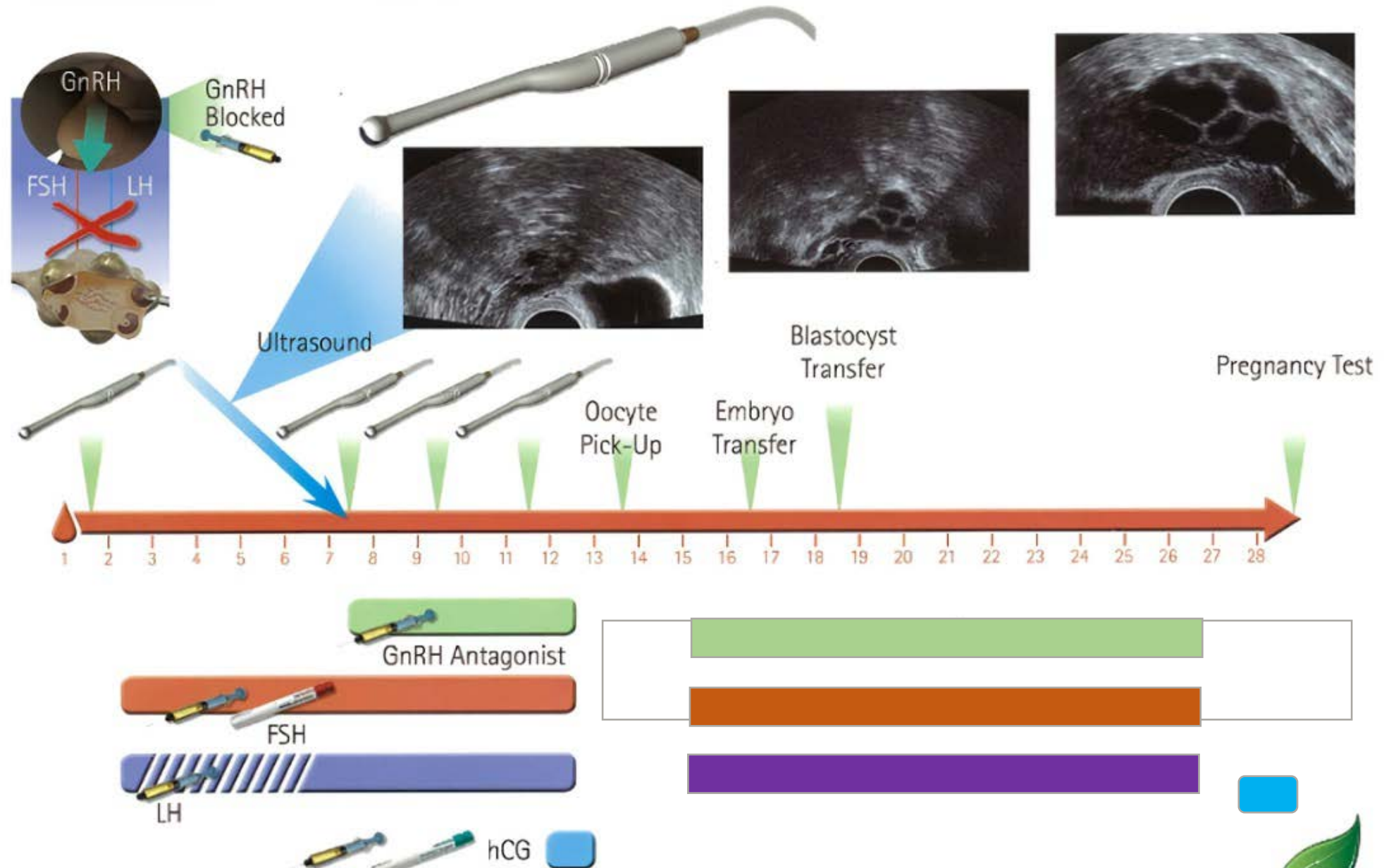


Table 2

Outcome of stimulations, Outcome of stimulations in all women and in those who initiated stimulation in the early (day 1–5), mid-late proliferative (day 6–14) and luteal (day ≥ 15) phases of the menstrual cycle. Statistical significance is marked as: difference between early and mid-late proliferation initiation (a), between early and luteal initiation (b) and between mid-late and luteal initiation of stimulation (c). \bar{x} = “mean”.

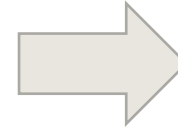
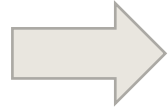
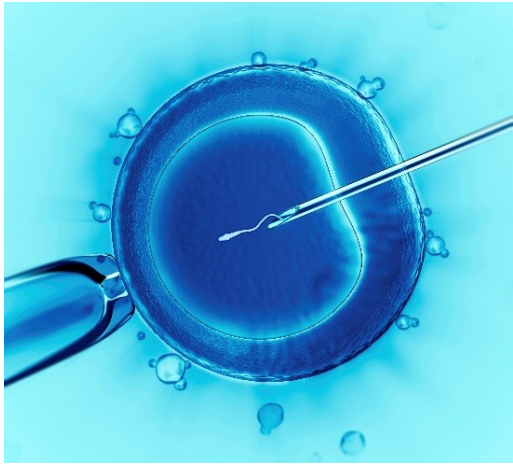
	All patients (n = 684)	Day 1–5 (n = 472)	Day 6–14 (n = 109)	Day ≥ 15 (n = 103)	p
Days of gonadotropin stimulation (\bar{x} n \pm SD)	10.8 \pm 2.4	10.8 \pm 2.4	10.6 \pm 2.7	11.5 \pm 2.2	0.022 ^{b,c}
Total dose of gonadotropins (\bar{x} IU \pm SD)	2574 \pm 1013	2496 \pm 980	2529 \pm 940	2970 \pm 1145	<0.001 ^{b,c}
Total dose of gonadotropins/day (\bar{x} IU)	238	231	239	258	<0.002 ^{b,c}
OHSS III ^o (n/total)	1/684	1/472	0/109	0/103	0.799
Obtained oocytes (\bar{x} n/ \pm SD/total)	12.3 \pm 4.4/684	11.6 \pm 7.7/472	13.9 \pm 9.1/109	13.6 \pm 7.9/103	0.006 ^{a,b}
Only cryopreservation of oocytes (\bar{x} n \pm SD/total)	11.2 \pm 8.1/265	12.1 \pm 8.6/179	11.5 \pm 9.0/53	13.6 \pm 6.8/33	
Only cryopreservation of zygotes (\bar{x} n \pm SD/total)	6.5 \pm 3.5/54	6.6 \pm 4.2/241	6.6 \pm 3.6/46	6.5 \pm 3.2/34	
Cryopreservation of both, oocytes and zygotes					
oocytes (\bar{x} n \pm SD/total)	6.5 \pm 3.5/56	6.4 \pm 3.5/38	6.5 \pm 2.8/8	6.7 \pm 4.0/10	
zygotes (\bar{x} n \pm SD/total)	5.1 \pm 2.9/56	4.9 \pm 3.1/38	6.8 \pm 2.7/8	4.4 \pm 1.6/10	

OOCYTE CRYOPRESERVATION

-

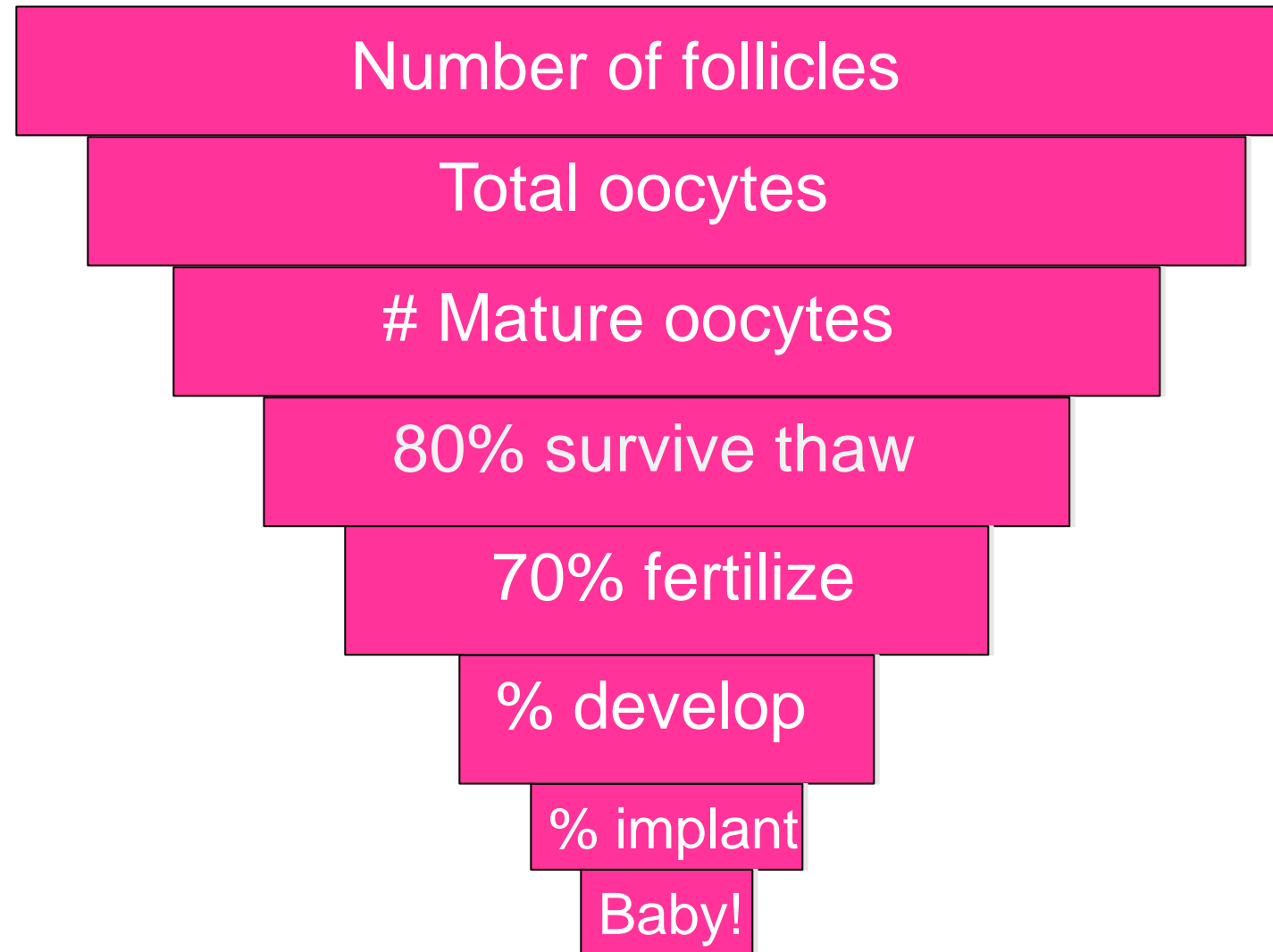


EMBRYO CRYOPRESERVATION





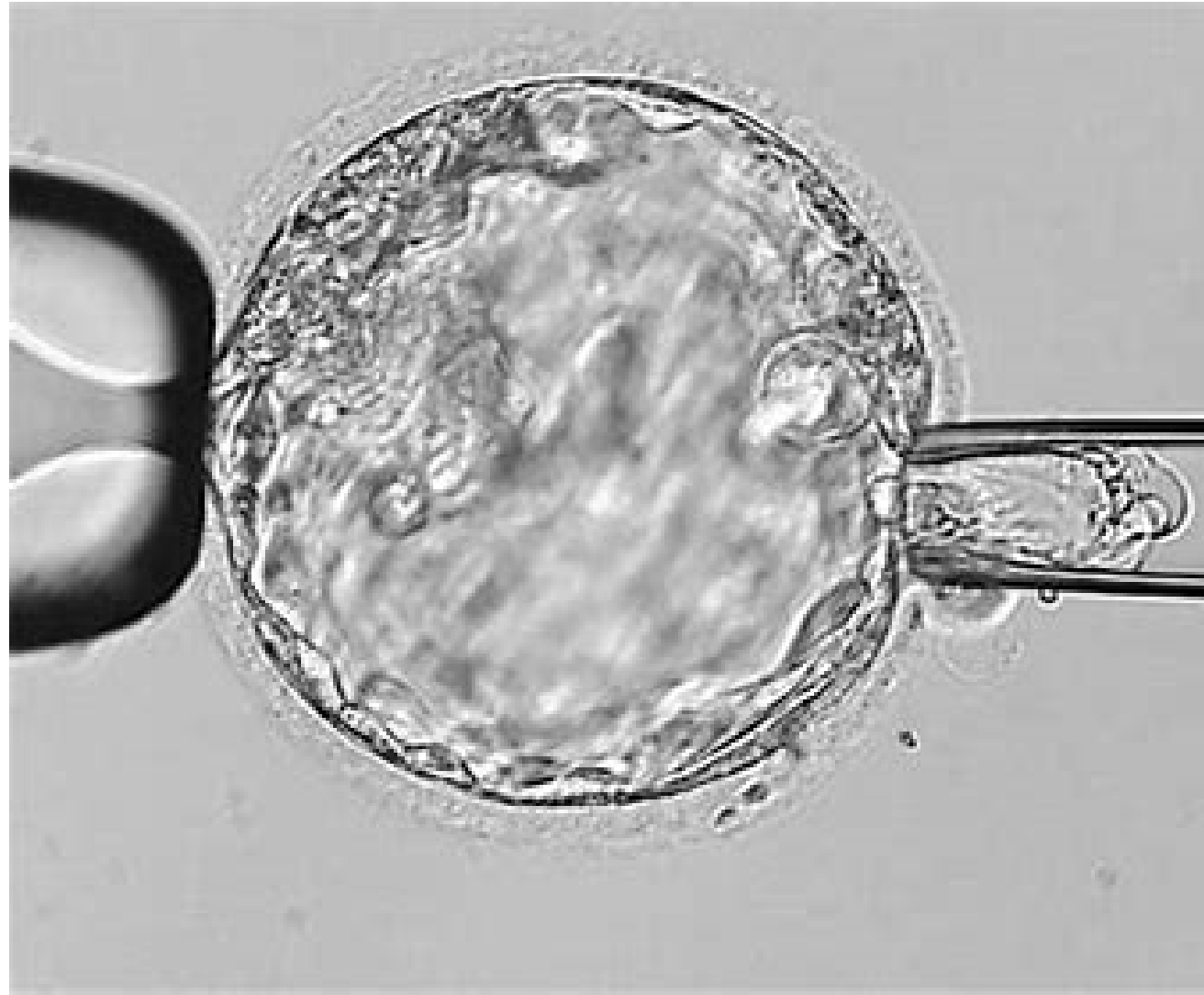
THERE IS ATTRITION ALONG THE WAY



Survival Rates

- 80% of oocytes frozen will survive the thaw
- 95% of good quality blastocysts frozen will survive the thaw

PREIMPLANTATION GENETIC TESTING



UTILIZATION OF OOCYTES AND EMBRYOS

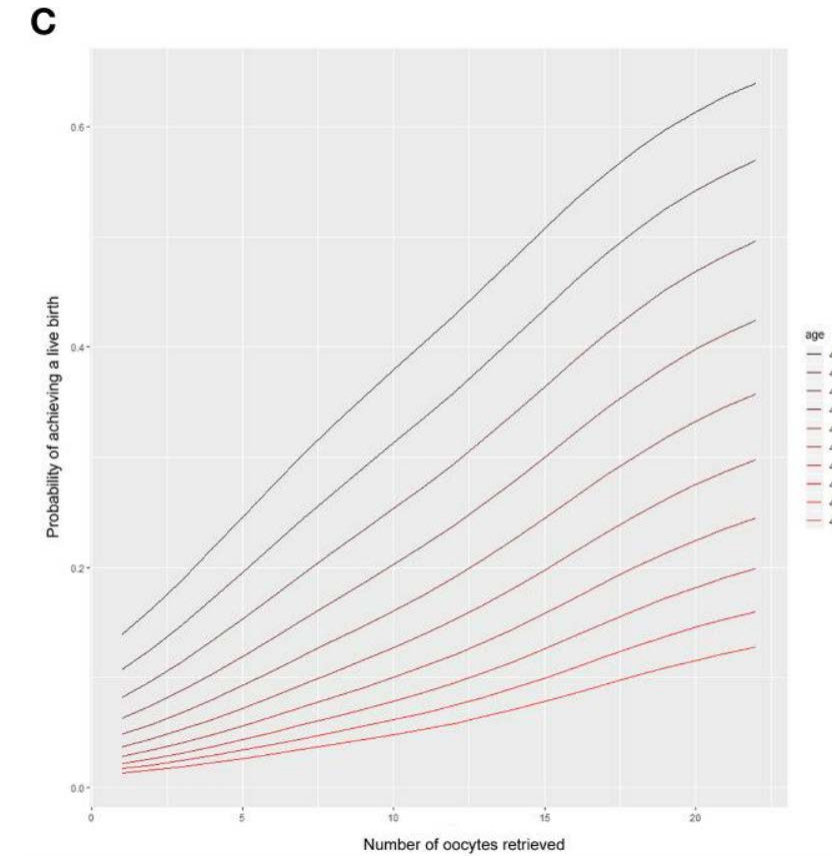
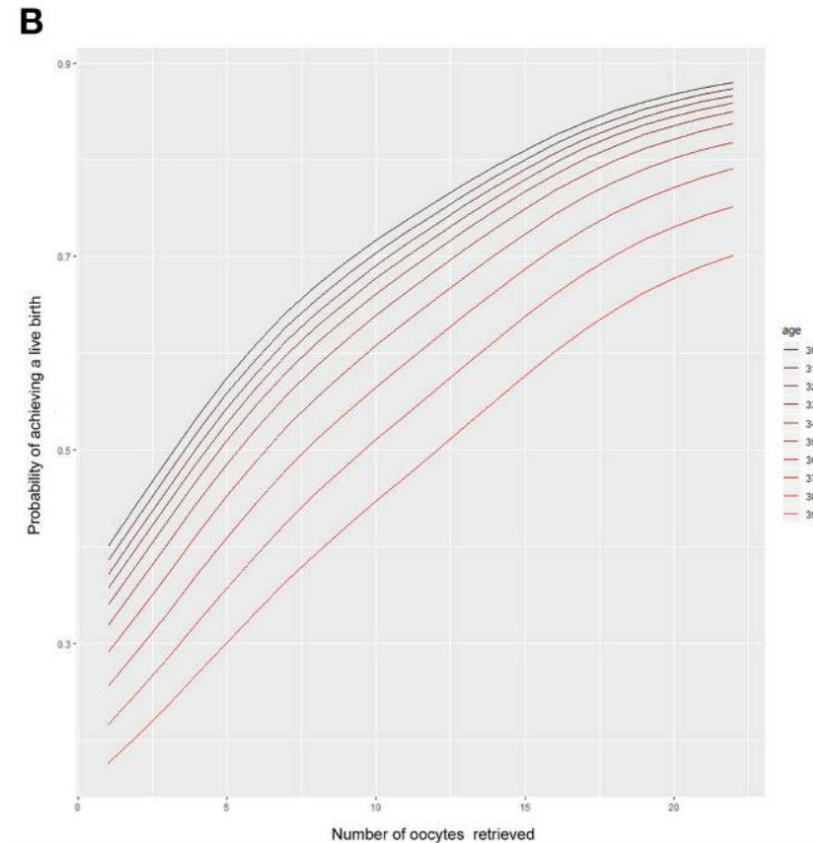
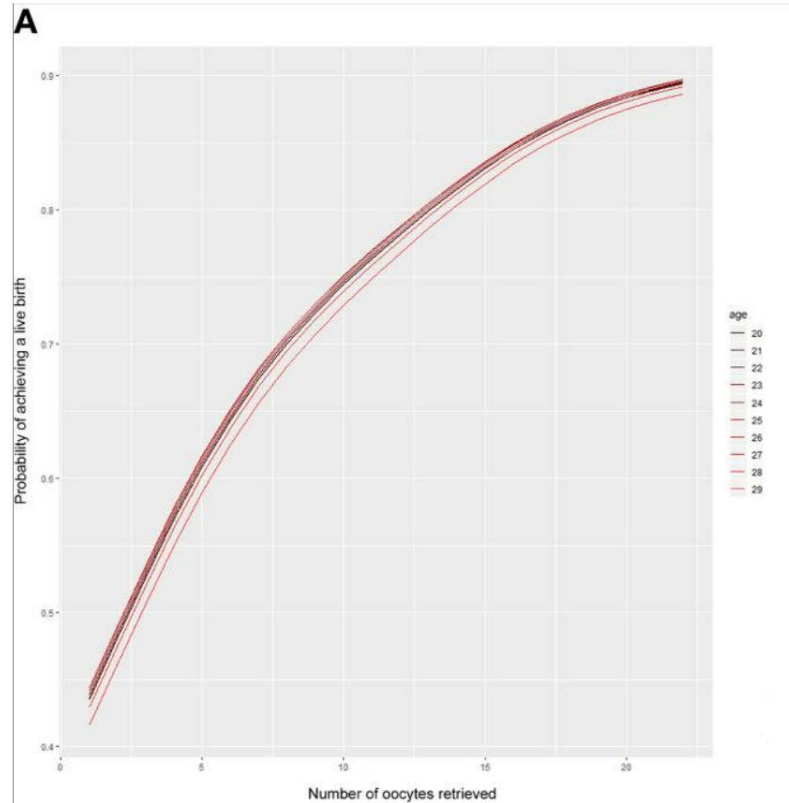
- In one cohort study that collected data from 2005-2009 on 231 patients with 280 cycles showed a utilization rate of 38%
- Another study collecting data from 2006-2020 showed that of the 921 patients who electively froze oocytes only 68 (7.4%) has utilized them
- A smaller study looked at 66 patients undergoing oocyte cryopreservation prior to gonadotoxic treatment, the utilization rate was 23%

Blakemore JK, Grifo JA, DeVore SM, Hodes-Wertz B, Berkeley AS. Planned oocyte cryopreservation-10-15-year follow-up: return rates and cycle outcomes. *Fertil Steril*. 2021 Jun;115(6):1511-1520. doi: 10.1016/j.fertnstert.2021.01.011. Epub 2021 Mar 9. PMID: 33712289.

Leung AQ, Baker K, Vaughan D, Shah JS, Korkidakis A, Ryley DA, Sakkas D, Toth TL. Clinical outcomes and utilization from over a decade of planned oocyte cryopreservation. *Reprod Biomed Online*. 2021 Jul 1:S1472-6483(21)00308-4. doi: 10.1016/j.rbmo.2021.06.024. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34474973.

Dolmans, M.M., Hollanders de Ouderaen, S., Demylle, D. *et al*. Utilization rates and results of long-term embryo cryopreservation before gonadotoxic treatment. *J Assist Reprod Genet* **32**, 1233–1237 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10815-015-0533-z>

LIVE BIRTH WITH VITRIFIED OOCYTES



THE MAJORITY OF WOMEN DO NOT RETRIEVE THE OPTIMAL NUMBER OF OOCYTES

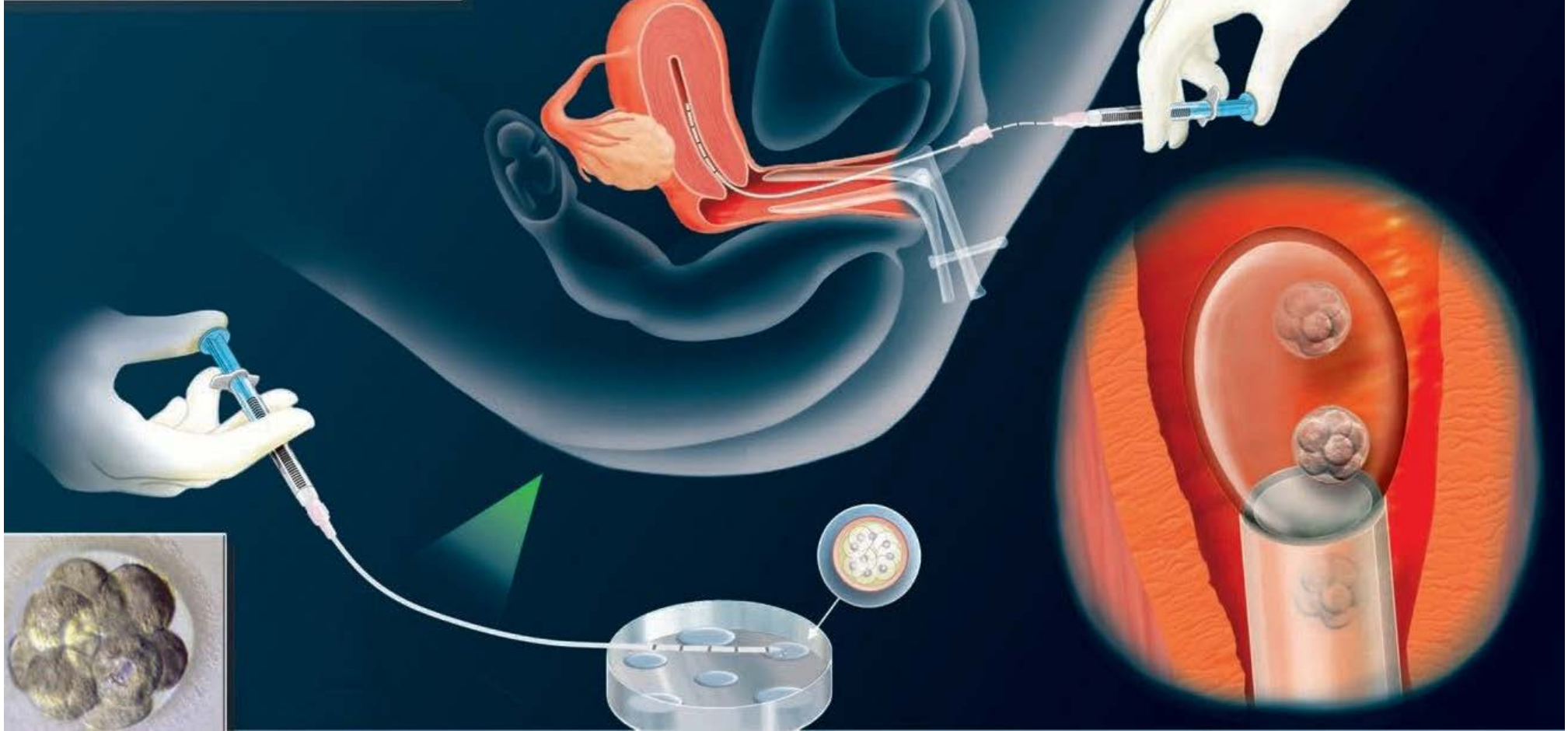
58% of women who undergo planned oocyte cryopreservation do not bank sufficient number of oocytes to yield an 80% chance of live birth

Median number of cycles needed to achieve adequate number of oocytes was 1.3-2.2 (depending on age)

WHEN TO DO AN EMBRYO TRANSFER?

Discussion with oncologist

Typically, 6 months post
chemotherapy



EMBRYO CRYOPRESERVATION SUCCESS

TABLE 1

Data from 2017 live-birth rates per cycle start.

	Age range, y				
Variable	< 35	35–37	38–40	41–42	> 42
Live-birth rate/cycle start	46.8	34.4	21.0	10.1	3.1
Confidence range	46.3–47.3	33.8–35.0	20.5–21.5	9.5–10.6	2.8–3.5

ASRM. Fertility preservation before gonadotoxic therapy. Fertil Steril 2019.

EMBRYO TRANSFER SUCCESS (PER SINGLE EMBRYO TRANSFER WITH GOOD QUALITY EMBRYO)

<35 years old – 50% live birth

35-37 years old – 35-40% live birth

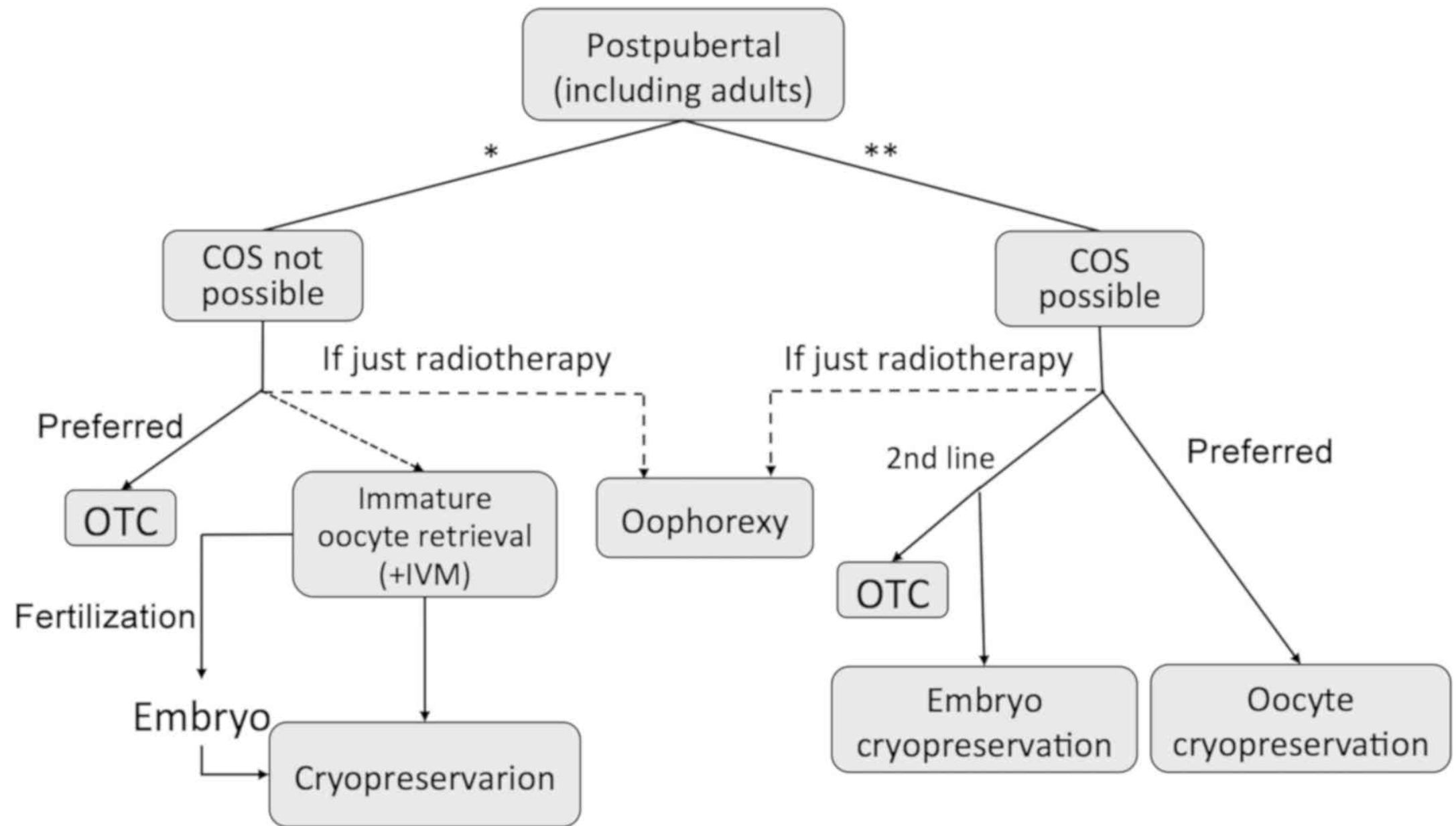
38-40 years old – 25% live birth

41-42 years old – 15% live birth

>42 years old – 5% live birth

PREPUBERTAL FEMALES

- Ovarian tissue cryopreservation
- In vitro maturation



OVARIAN TISSUE CRYOPRESERVATION

NOT EXPERIMENTAL (2019)

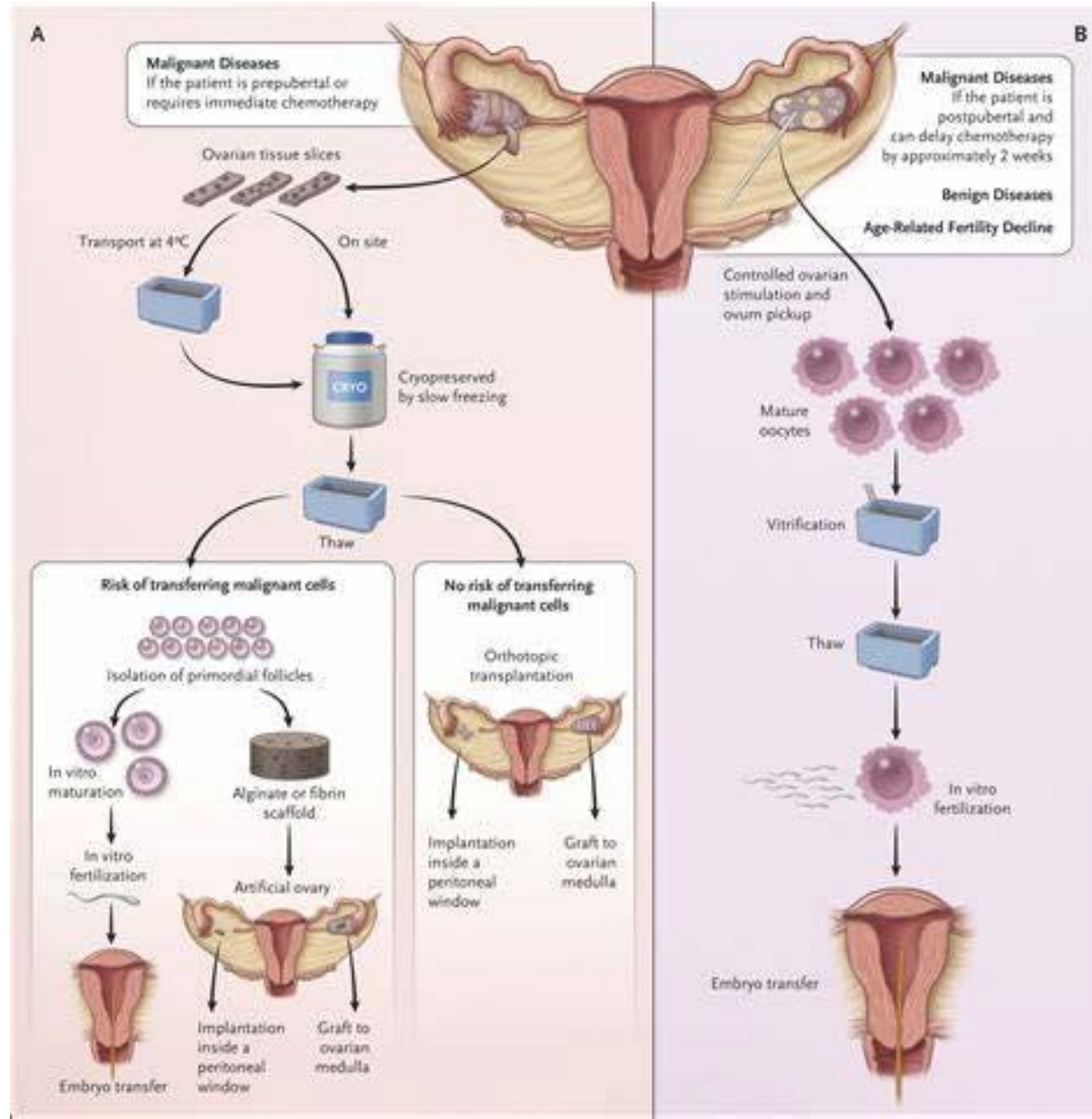
Prepubertal patients

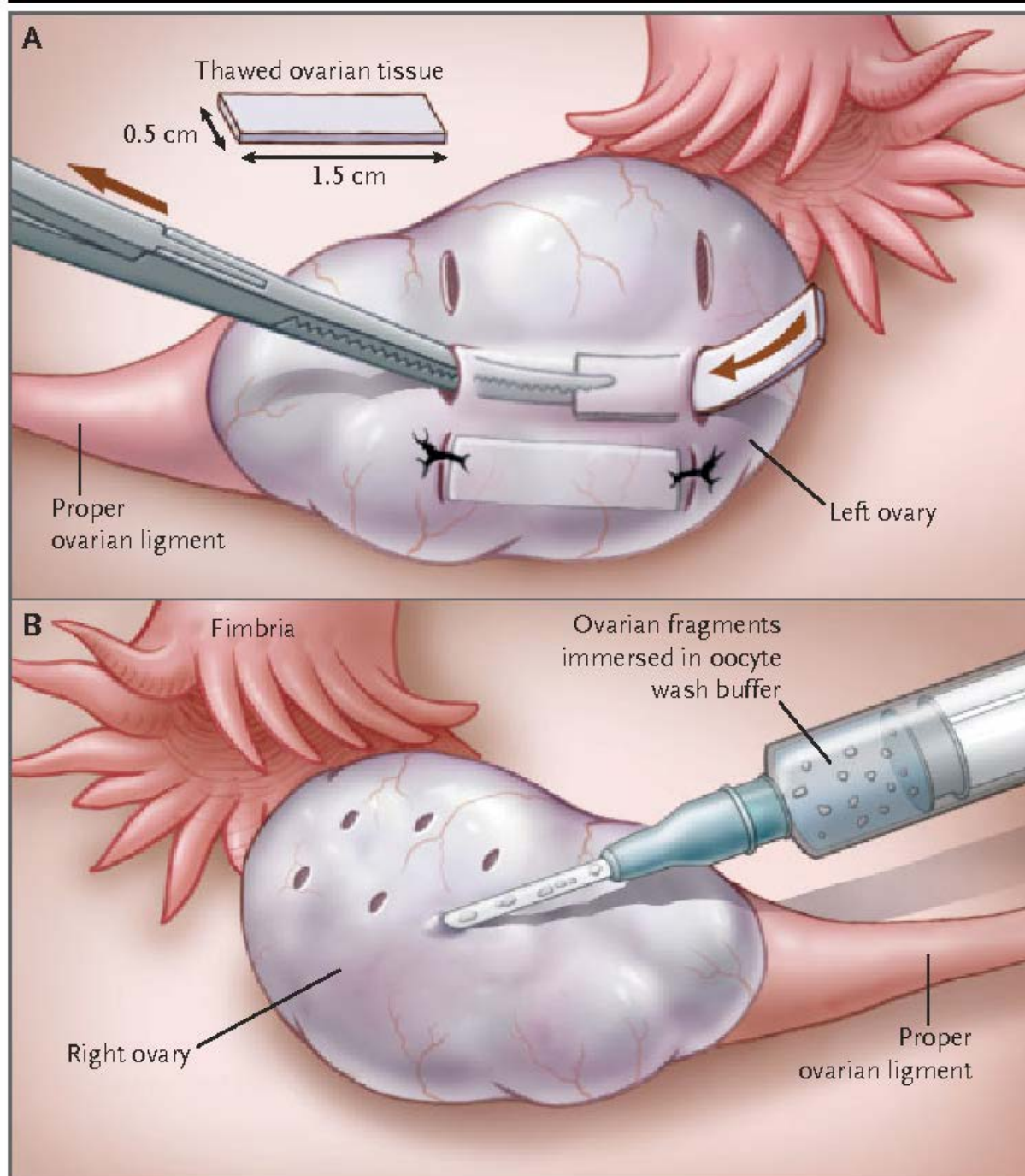
Patients who cannot delay chemotherapy start

Patients having surgery for another reason

Not recommended for patients >40 YO, have large ovarian cyst, received prior chemotherapy

PREPUBERTAL FEMALES





Assisted reproduction techniques
(29M - 30M after cancer diagnosis)

Fertility preservation techniques
(+25M after cancer diagnosis)

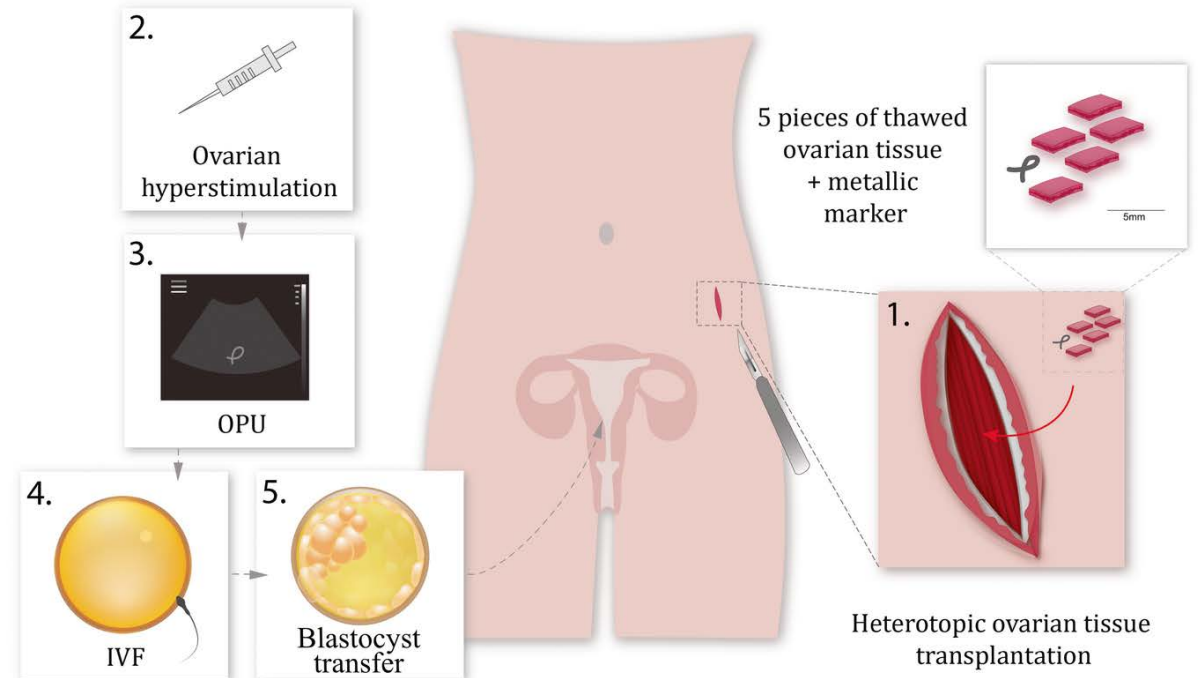
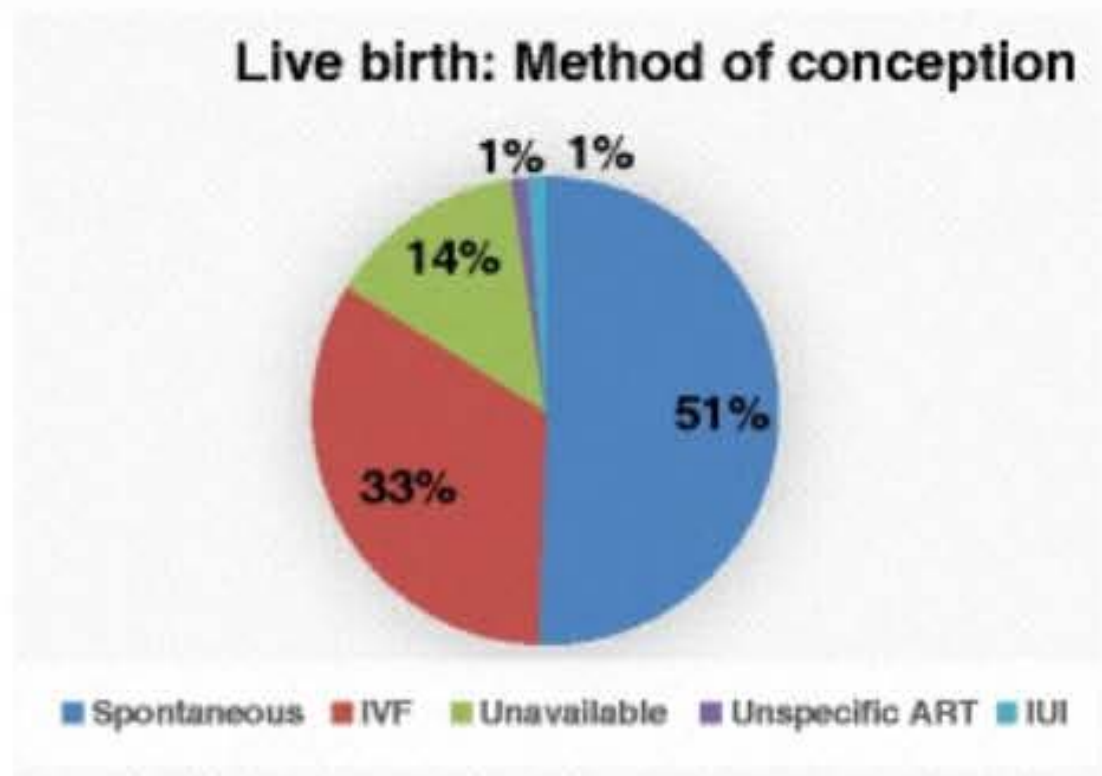
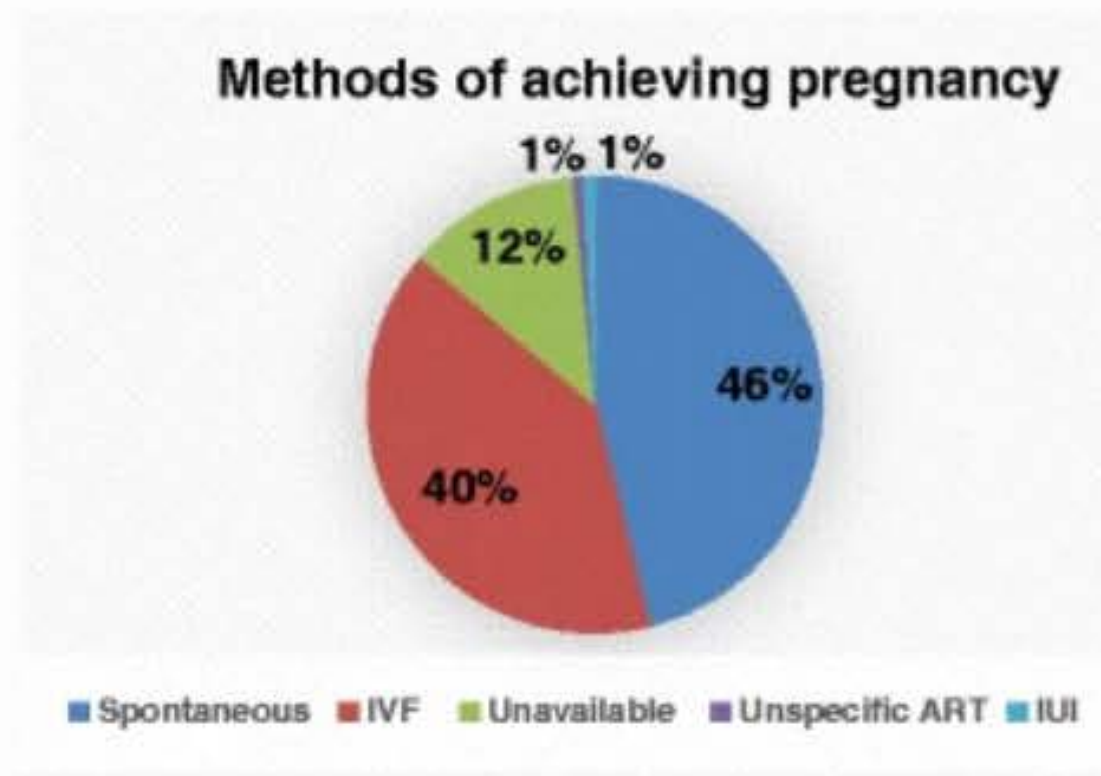


Figure 2. Surgical Technique.

en-thawed ovarian tissue: an update on worldwide activity published in peer-reviewed pa



obtain **a** pregnancy ($N = 131$) and **b** live birth ($N = 87$)

OVARIAN TISSUE CRYOPRESERVATION OUTCOMES



- Live birth between 25-37%
- Hormonal function resumes 60-240 days after transplant
 - Median duration of return is 7 years

Table 4 Gestational age (GA) and birth weight of 40 children, 34 singletons, and 3 sets of twins published in peer-reviewed journals and 9 new Danish cases presented in this paper

From: [86 successful births and 9 ongoing pregnancies worldwide in women transplanted with frozen-thawed ovarian tissue: focus on birth and perinatal outcome in 40 of these children](#)

	NC/IVF/IUI	Delivery mode (CS/VD/NS)	GA (weeks) Median	GA (weeks) Mean \pm SEM (range)	Birth weight (g) Median	Birth weight (g) Mean \pm SEM (range)	Girls <i>N</i>	Boys <i>N</i>
Singletons ^a	17/16/1	15/12/7	38	39 \pm 0.2 (36–41)	3168	3217 \pm 82 (2370–4230)	17	17
Twins	3 sets IVF	2 sets/1 set	37	36 \pm 1 (33–38)	2650	2560 \pm 286 (1650–3320)	2	4

NC naturally conceived, IVF in vitro fertilization, IUI intrauterine insemination, CS caesarean section, VD vaginal delivery, NS not specified

^aThe GA on 3 singleton births is not available

NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THAT OTC INCREASES CHANCE OF DISEASE RECURRENCE

***This should not be offered to patients with
known BRCA variants

LIMITED DATA IN PATIENTS <18 YEARS OLD

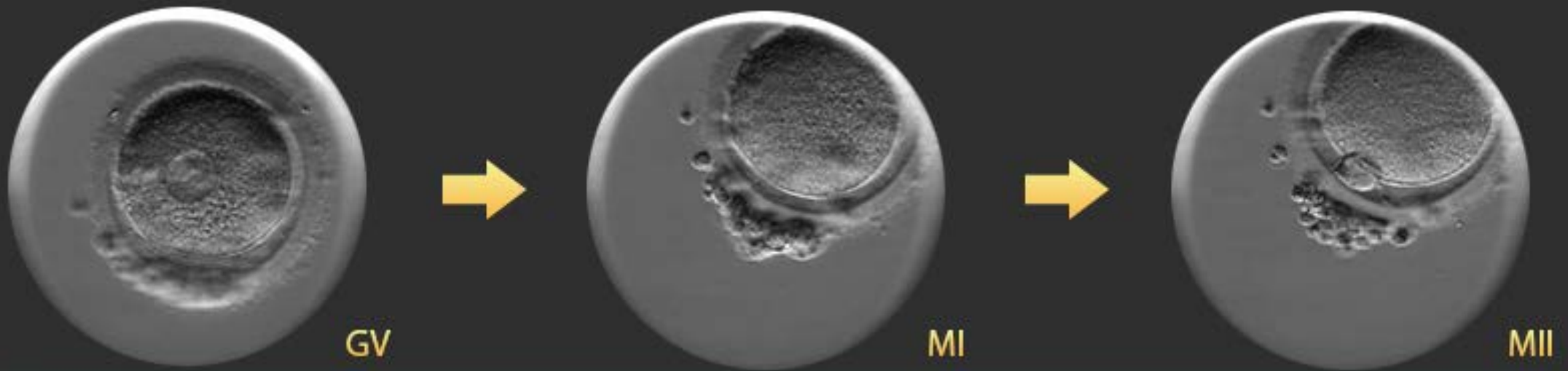
18 patients were under 21 (9-20.3 years) years old when they cryopreserved their tissue and auto-transplantation of thawed tissue in each of these patients resulted in 10 live births for 9 mothers

C



**CURRENTLY CHW/RMC IS WORKING WITH
LURIE'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TO
PROVIDE THE OPTION OF OVARIAN
TISSUE CRYOPRESERVATION TO OUR
PATIENTS!**

IVM



IN VITRO MATURATION

- Best in women with PCOS
- Has been utilized in patients undergoing gonadotoxic therapy
- Maturation rates from GV to MII are 50-55%
- Fertilization rates similar to in vivo matured oocytes – 70%
- Blast rate much lower 5-6%
- High rate of chromosomal abnormalities (DNA methylation and imprinting disorders)
- First live birth in 2009

Characteristic	Singleton pregnancy (n = 345)			Multiple pregnancy (n = 205)		
	IVM group (n =	IVF group (n = 230)	P value	IVM group (n = 69; 34	IVF group (n = 136; 68	P value
Gestational age (wk)	38.7 ± 1.8	38.8 ± 1.3	.68	35.3 ± 2.5	35.9 ± 1.8	.28
Preterm labor ^b	7 (6%)	9 (3.9%)	.34	16 (47.0%)	34 (50%)	.24
Birth weight (g)	3,306.2 ± 473.9	3,272.4 ± 390.4	.51	2,416.7 ± 580.8	2,380.1 ± 375.3	.74
Sex						.15
Male	60 (52.2%)	128 (55.7%)	.54	34 (49.2%)	63 (46.3%)	
Female	55 (47.8%)	102 (44.3%)		35 (50.7%)	73 (53.6%)	
Fetal malformation	3 (2.6%) ^c	7 (3.0%) ^d	.64	5 (7.2%) ^e	8 (5.9%) ^f	.22

LUPRON

ASRM statement “Given the evidence of efficacy, GnRH agonists may be offered to breast cancer patients to reduce the risk of premature ovarian insufficiency, but should not be used in place of other fertility preservation alternatives”

LUPRON AND DMPA FOR MENSTRUAL SUPPRESSION DURING CHEMOTHERAPY

Vaginal bleeding	No. of patients (%)			
	Untreated	DMPA	GnRH-a	Total
No bleeding	7 (35.0)	19 (45.2)	30 (76.9)	56 (55.4)
Mild bleeding [*]	5 (25.0)	14 (33.3)	9 (23.1)	28 (27.7)
Moderate bleeding [†]	5 (25.0)	4 (9.5)	0	9 (8.9)
Severe bleeding [‡]	3 (15.0)	5 (11.9)	0	8 (7.9)
Total number of patients	20	42	39	101
Moderate and severe bleeding [§]	8 (40.0)	9 (21.4)	0	17 (16.8)

ALWAYS AN OPTION TO DO NOTHING

Patients should have been given the opportunity to hear about and discuss their options so that they can make informed decision that is right for them!

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

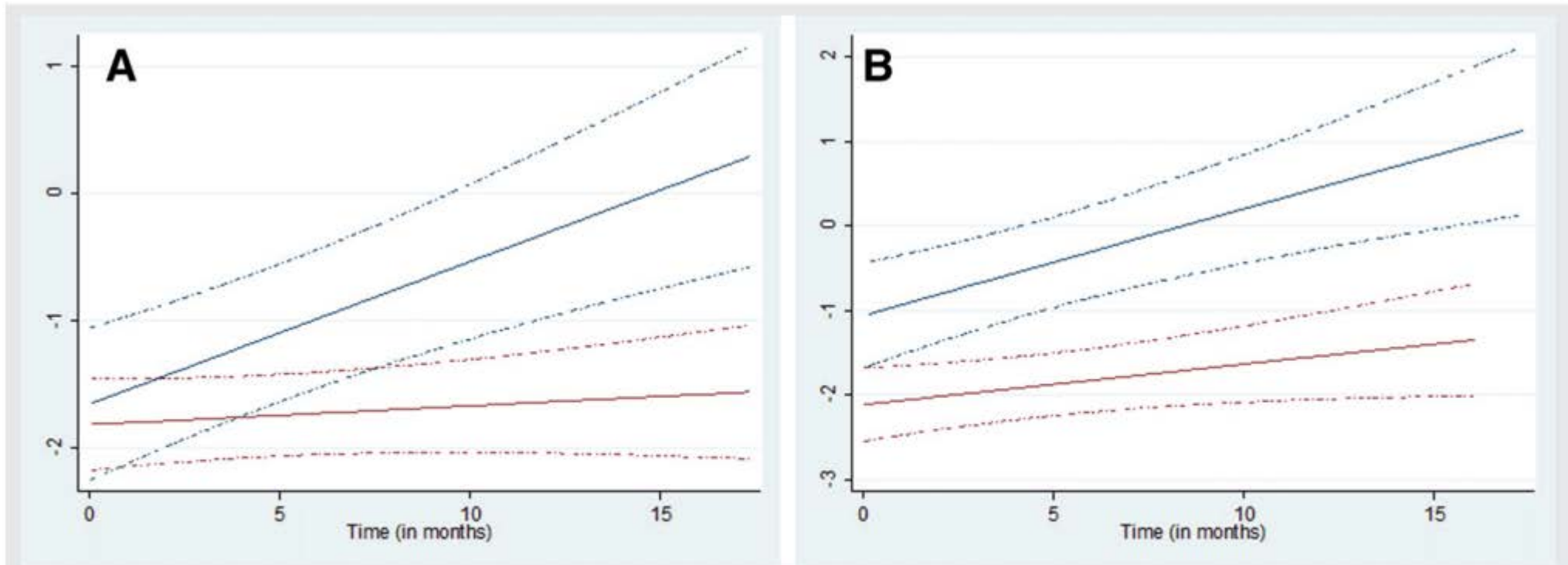
Fertility preservation
after chemotherapy

Breast cancer

FERTILITY PRESERVATION FOLLOWING CHEMOTHERAPY

- A safe interval between chemotherapy completion and oocyte/embryo cryopreservation has not been established
- Chemotherapeutic agents can cause DNA abnormalities and oxidative damage
- In mouse models, conception that occurred 3 months after cyclophosphamide exposure were at higher risk of fetal anomalies and pregnancy loss

AMH PRIOR TO CHEMOTHERAPY, CAN IT PREDICT OVARIAN RECOVERY?



Rate of recovery of antimüllerian hormone after cancer therapy. (A) *Blue*: Pretreatment antimüllerian hormone (AMH) >2. Slope is 11.9% per month. *Red*: Pretreatment AMH ≤2. Slope is 2.6% per month (interaction $P=.003$). Dashed lines = 95% CI. (B) *Blue*: No alkylator use. Slope is 13.4% per month. *Red*: Alkylator use. Slope is 4.9% per month (interaction $P=.062$). Dashed lines = 95% CI.

Dillon. Pretreatment AMH determines posttreatment recovery. Fertil Steril 2013.

AMH POST TREATMENT

Modeling of reproductive lifespan in female AYA cancer survivors based upon AMH

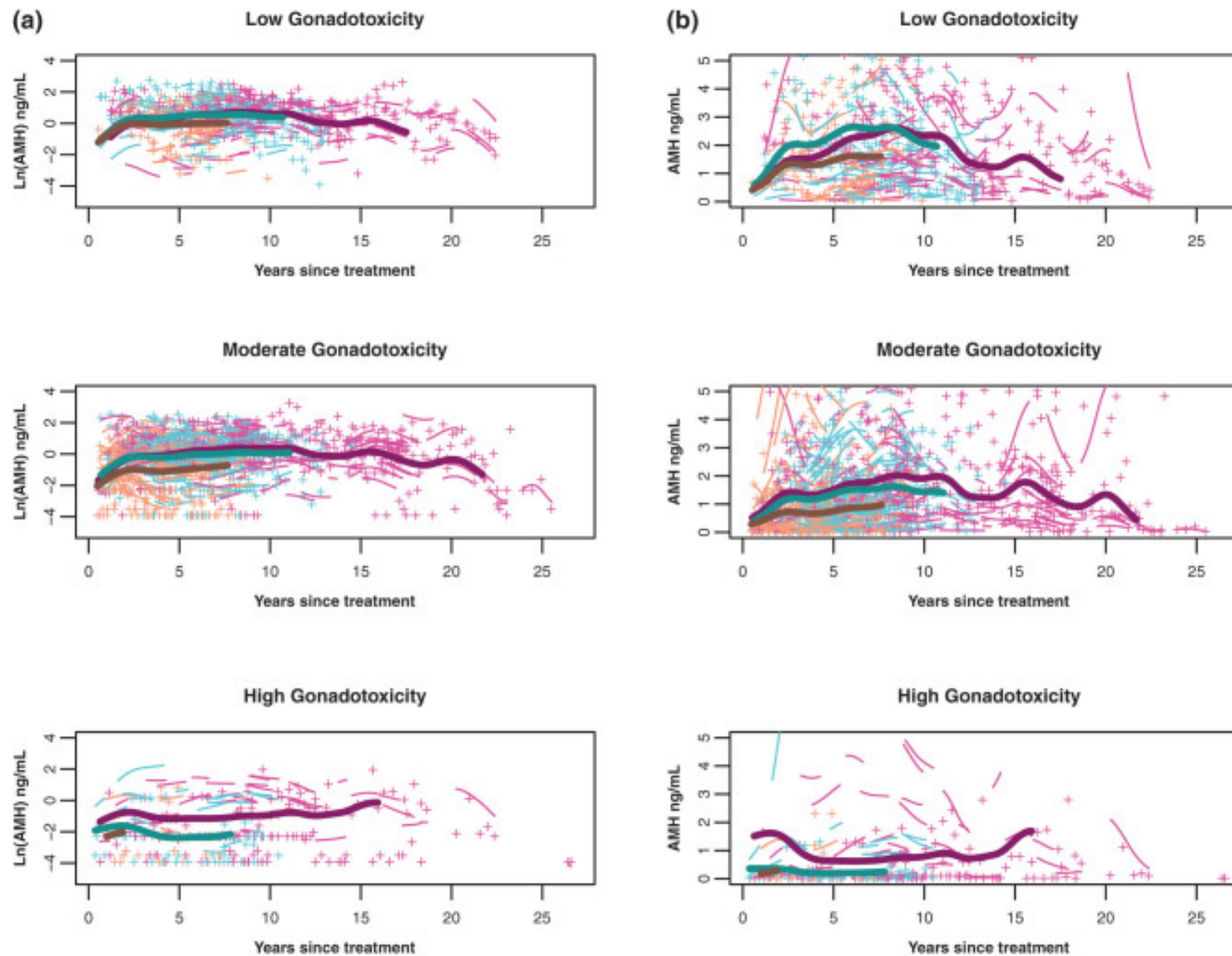
Breast (26.9%), Lymphoma (24.8%), Thyroid (18%)

AMH trajectories differed by treatment gonadotoxicity

Moderate gonadotoxicity- AMH increased over 2-3 years post treatment then declined over 15 years

High gonadotoxicity- AMH lower overall and declined shortly after peak at 2-3 years

Protective effect of age not observed in high gonadotoxic group



OPTIMAL TIMING OF AMH MEASUREMENT POST CHEMO

- No current data
- Ok to measure 6-10 months post treatment
- Follow every 6 months
- No opportune time to intervene based on percent drop
- Likely best time to intervene is 2-3 years post treatment

BREAST CANCER

Need to keep estradiol levels
low, especially in hormone
responsive cancer

BREAST CANCER

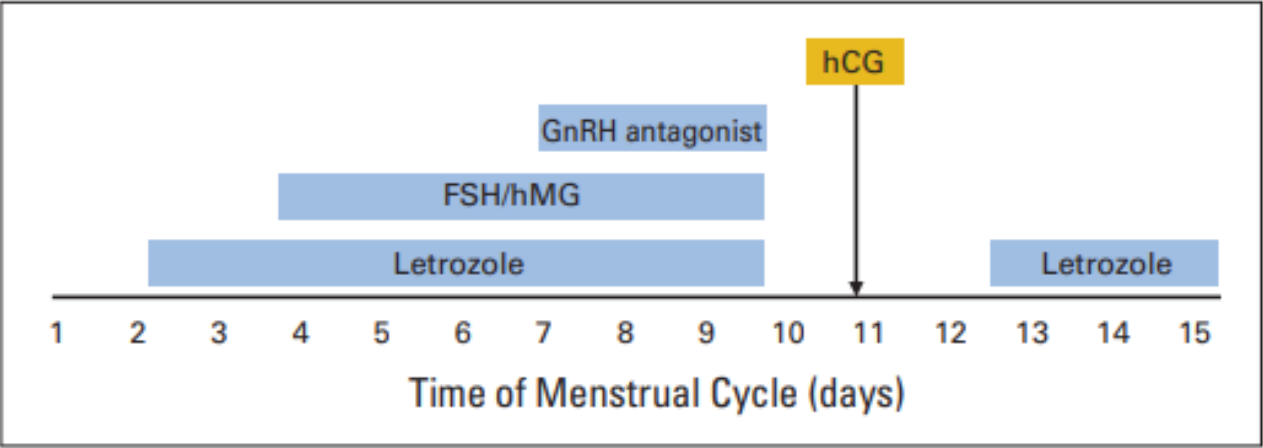


Fig 1. Protocol for ovarian stimulation with letrozole and gonadotropins in patients diagnosed with breast carcinoma. In this regimen, letrozole is initiated on the second day of menstrual cycle and gonadotropins are started 2 days later. A gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) antagonist is administered when estradiol levels reach ≥ 250 pg/mL or the lead follicle size reaches 14 mm. Human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) is administered when the leading follicle reaches 19 to 20 mm in diameter. Letrozole treatment is restarted after oocyte retrieval until the estradiol levels are lower than 50 pg/mL. FSH, follicle-stimulating hormone; hMG, human menopausal gonadotropin.

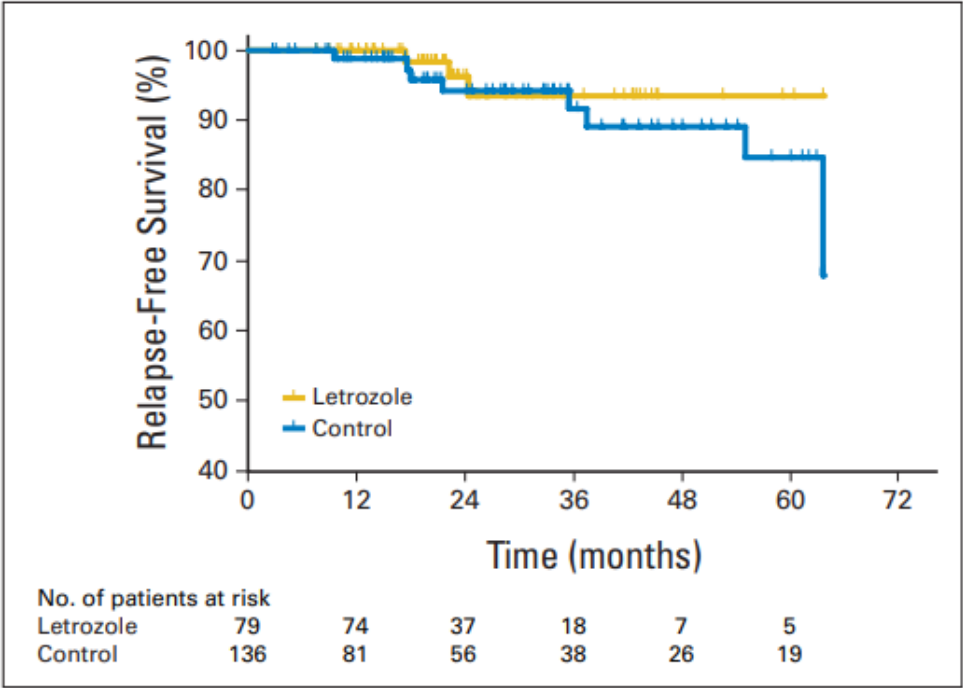


Fig 2. Relapse-free survival in ovarian stimulation and control groups. Kaplan-Meier plot for relapse-free survival in letrozole and control groups. $P = .36$ (log-rank test), hazard ratio = 0.56. The number of patients at risk at each year is shown below the graph.

LETROZOLE UTILIZATION FOR ESTRADIOL SUPPRESSION

Patients at increased risk
of clots

- Post operatively

- Sickle cell disease

ASRM – WHAT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE

Rapid access

Interdisciplinary team:
oncology, endocrinology,
reproductive medicine,
urology, anesthesiology

Lab: ability to vitrify oocytes
and embryos

Counseling: genetic, mental
health, financial

WRAP UP

Ideal to know dose and duration of
chemotherapeutics at time of referral

Patients have the best outcome if they
undergo fertility preservation options
prior to chemotherapy/radiation

If not, follow AMH 6-10 months
post treatment every 6 months

If able obtain AMH prior to appointment

FINANCIAL ASPECT

IVF without assistance (ARCě as an option)

Oocyte cryopreservation ~\$10,000 + meds

Embryo cryopreservation ~\$13,000 + meds

Livestrong (Single <\$100k and couple
<\$135k annual income)

Oocyte cryopreservation \$7,433

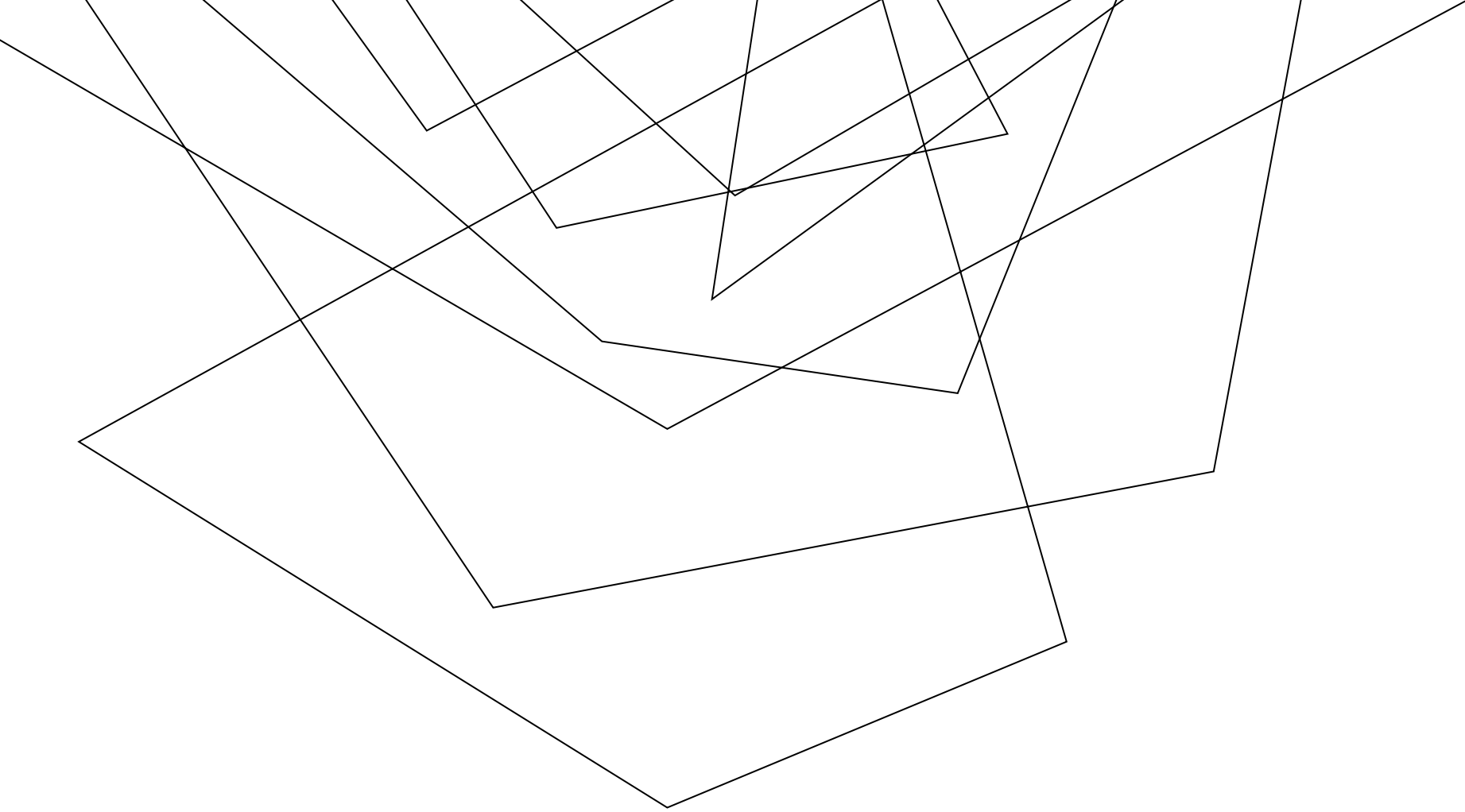
Embryo cryopreservation \$8,640

Post treatment \$9,922

Meds usually covered

Reprotech for gamete/embryo storage

Pre-chemo and post-chemo



QUESTIONS?

#MCWFertility

RMC TEAM



Kate Schoyer
Division Director



Jayme Bosler



Robert Rydze



Stephanie Gunderson



Jay Sandlow
Interim Chair of
Urology