

A close-up photograph of a baby with large, light-colored eyes, looking directly at the camera. The baby is lying on its stomach, partially covered by a bright green blanket that is pulled up over its head, leaving only its face and hands visible. The baby's hands are resting near its chin. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white and light green.

REhope

*hope for*  
CONCEIVING AFTER CANCER



Levine Cancer Institute



Women's Institute  
Reproductive Medicine



## conceiving AFTER cancer

Receiving a cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming. With so much to think about, questions about future reproductive challenges and fertility often get overlooked. However, this is the best time to address concerns about conceiving after cancer.

Due to advances in early detection and cancer treatment, people are living long after a cancer diagnosis and men and women might consider how cancer and subsequent treatments - such as surgery, chemotherapy or radiation may impact fertility.

REhope is here to provide answers to your questions and discuss future family building options. While the road ahead may seem daunting, you can count on us to be with you every step of the way.

*We offer hope.*

## RE: Comprehensive Care

Through a partnership with the Women's Institute, REhope helps patients understand how their diagnosis and recommended treatments may affect fertility.

REhope takes a multidisciplinary approach to preserving family-building options for patients by providing comprehensive care with a team of experts including:

- Oncologists
- Reproductive endocrinologists
- Urologists
- Specially-trained nurses
- Psychologists
- Genetic counselors
- Certified embryology lab staff with expertise in sperm, oocyte and embryo cryopreservation

When "high tech" treatment is needed, our physicians seek out the most effective new technologies along with the expertise of highly trained andrology and embryology specialists.

## RE: Family Building Options

Close coordination between Levine Cancer Institute and the Women's Institute allows each patient to receive a fertility preservation plan tailored to his or her circumstances. This comprehensive plan is then integrated into the cancer treatment regimen.

During your first visit, your physician will discuss your medical history, concerns and special needs. You and your physician will devise a plan of action specifically for you. Our resources and services include the following:

### REPRODUCTIVE COUNSELING

- Evaluate the impact of your specific cancer treatment on future fertility.
- Assess reproductive potential before and after treatment.
- Discuss fertility preservation options including your treatment schedule.
- Review future pregnancy risks.
- Assess risk to offspring for genetically transmitted cancers.
- Consider alternative options for family building.

### FERTILITY PRESERVATION SERVICES

- Oocyte cryopreservation
- Sperm cryopreservation
- Embryo cryopreservation
- Intrauterine sperm inseminations (IUI)
- In vitro fertilization (IVF)
- Donor egg program
- Donor embryo program
- Donor sperm program



## RE: Men and Fertility

Some types of cancer and treatments may affect male fertility. Chemotherapy and radiation therapy may temporarily or permanently affect sperm count and the ability for men to have children.

The likelihood of male infertility after cancer depends on several factors including:

- Type of cancer
- Dose and duration of chemotherapy or radiation
- Age of the patient
- Sperm count prior to treatment

### COMMON CONCERNS

Our institute provides close coordination between you, your team of physicians and cancer care providers to address your reproductive concerns. We discuss your individual treatment plan, evaluate your chances for successful family building and review fertility preservation options.

Some common concerns may include:

- Probability of infertility after cancer treatment.
- Options for fertility preservation given the type of cancer.
- Likelihood of success and cost associated with different fertility treatments.
- Whether testicular tissue banking would be necessary.
- Family building options if you choose not to undergo any fertility preserving treatments or have few or no sperm after cancer treatment.
- Risks to future children of genetically transmitted cancers.
- Options for genetic testing prior to pregnancy.

### STORING SPERM

Many men have concerns about the effects cancer therapy may have on their ability to have children. Often sperm count and function are reduced immediately after chemotherapy or radiation so it is important to bank sperm prior to starting treatment.

To preserve fertility, sperm may be frozen and stored for future use following completion of cancer treatment. This process is quick and simple and allows you to freeze semen from one or more ejaculates in our accredited andrology lab. Healthy pregnancies have been reported for sperm that has been stored for more than 20 years.

### MORE OPTIONS

Several options are available either before or after cancer treatment depending on your individual needs:

- Sperm banking
- Testicular tissue banking
- Intrauterine sperm insemination
- In vitro fertilization
- Donor sperm



## RE: Women and Fertility

An estimated 1 in 47 reproductive age women will be diagnosed with some type of invasive cancer by age 40.

Our team of specialists is available to discuss how your cancer treatments may affect your chance of infertility or risk of future pregnancy complications. Our center provides close coordination between you, your team of physicians and cancer care providers to address reproductive concerns.

### CANCER AND REPRODUCTION

Many types of cancer may affect a woman's reproductive function. While men continually produce new sperm, women are born with all the eggs they will ever develop.

Both chemotherapy and radiation treatments can decrease hormone production resulting in early menopause and deplete a woman's supply of eggs, reducing chances of future pregnancy. Radiation treatments may also affect uterine function resulting in difficulties in carrying a pregnancy.

### FUTURE FERTILITY

The likelihood of cancer and recommended treatments affecting female fertility depends on several factors including:

- Type of cancer
- Recommended surgery
- Location and dose of radiation
- Type and amount of chemotherapy
- Age of patient
- Fertility potential before treatment

### COMMON CONCERNS

Not all women will be infertile after cancer treatment, but many women want to know their fertility preserving options before cancer treatment begins. Reproductive specialists at the Women's Institute discuss your individual treatment plan, talk about future fertility options and answer any questions. Concerns may include:

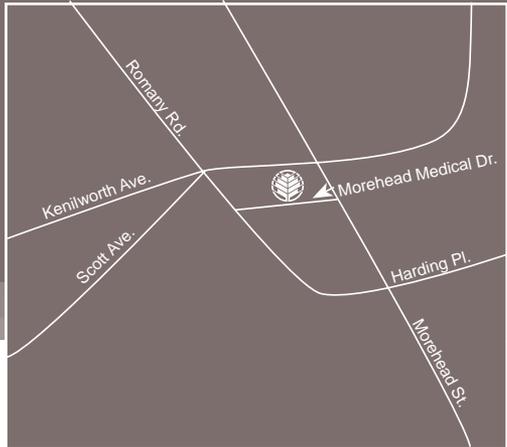
- Likelihood of infertility after cancer treatment.
- Options for fertility preservation given the type of cancer.
- Likelihood of success and costs associated with different treatments.
- Fertility preservation treatments such as egg or embryo banking and if they will delay cancer treatment.
- Future pregnancy options if the patient chooses not to undergo any fertility preserving treatments.
- Any increased risk to mother or baby during future pregnancy.
- If pregnancy will affect risk of cancer recurrence.
- Any risk to future children of genetically transmitted cancers.
- Options for genetic testing prior to pregnancy.

### MORE OPTIONS

For women at risk of infertility after cancer, fertility preserving treatments may provide options for conceiving after cancer. Several treatment options are available either before or after cancer treatment, depending on your individual situation including:

- Surgical techniques for gynecologic cancer to preserve reproductive organs
- Shielding or relocating the ovaries during radiation
- Medications to protect ovarian function during chemotherapy
- Freezing and storing eggs or embryos (fertilized eggs) for future use
- Donor oocytes or embryos
- In vitro fertilization
- Ovulation induction





## ADDRESS

Women's Institute  
Morehead Medical Plaza  
1025 Morehead Medical Drive, Suite 500  
Charlotte, NC 28204

## PARKING

When arriving at Morehead Medical Plaza, park in the visitors parking deck. Levels 1-3 are dedicated to visitors. Take the elevator to the third floor. After exiting the elevator turn right. Cross the breezeway skybridge to enter the building. Once inside the building, take the elevator to the fifth floor. Suite 500 is the Women's Institute.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call 704-446-5110 to speak with a REhope patient care coordinator for more information or to schedule an appointment.



Levine Cancer Institute



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[www.cmc-womensinstitute.org](http://www.cmc-womensinstitute.org)