



FERTILITY PRESERVATION STRATEGIES IN PEDIATRIC CANCER PATIENTS

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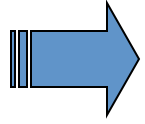


-
- No conflict of interest
 - Nothing to declare



FACTS ABOUT CANCER

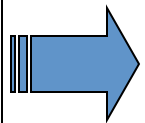
FEMALE CANCER



| | | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| | Breast | 182,460 | 26% |
| | Lung & bronchus | 100,330 | 14% |
| | Colon & rectum | 71,560 | 10% |
| | Uterine corpus | 40,100 | 6% |
| | Non-Hodgkin lymphoma | 30,670 | 4% |
| | Thyroid | 28,410 | 4% |
| | Melanoma of the skin | 27,530 | 4% |
| | Ovary | 21,650 | 3% |
| | Kidney & renal pelvis | 21,260 | 3% |
| | Leukemia | 19,090 | 3% |
| | All Sites | 692,000 | 100% |

2

Survival rates of childhood and adult cancers have **INCREASED** with modern multi-agent chemo/ radiotherapy regimens



Childhood cancers



Adult cancers



5-year survival rates (%)

1974

2010

58%

81%

50%

66%



THE MOST COMMON CANCERS IN THE PEDIATRIC AGE GROUP (NATIONAL STATISTICS 2008-2012 per 100,000)

1. Leukemia-Lymphoma (7)
2. CNS tumors (2.1)
3. Urinary system tumors (1.9)
4. Soft tissue sarcomas (1.7)
5. Endocrine system tumors (1.6)
6. Eye (1.2)



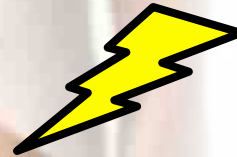
QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES IN CANCER SURVIVORS

FERTILITY PRESERVATION

CHEMOTHERAPY



GONADOTOXICITY

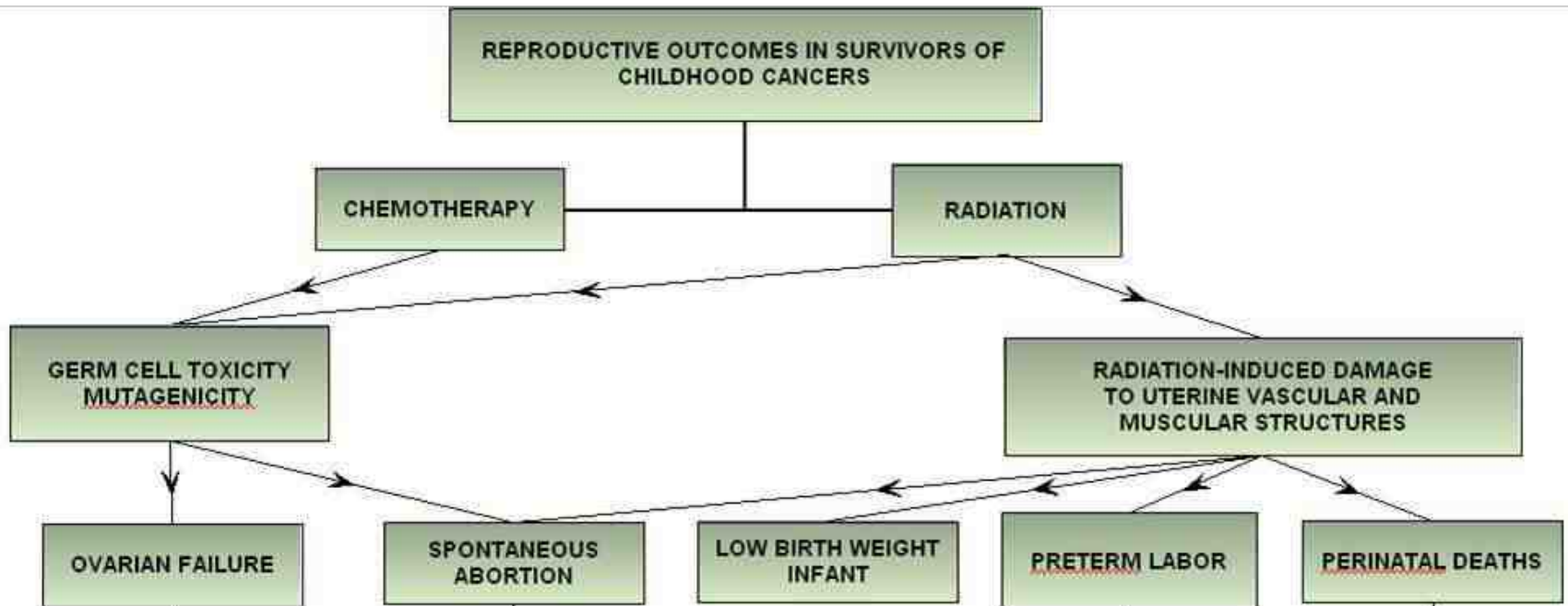


RADIOTHERAPY





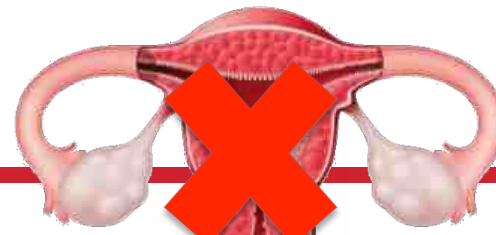
Adult survivors of childhood cancers



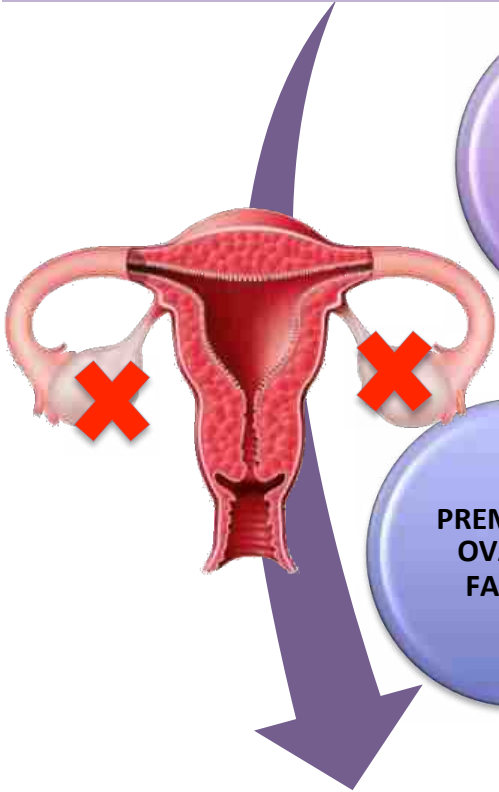
Oktem et al Ann N Y Acad Sci 2008

Oktem et al Pediatr Blood Cancer 2009

Oktem et al. Obstet Gynecol Surv 2010



**PRE AND POSTPUBERTAL EXPOSURE
MAINLY DUE TO OVARIAN DAMAGE
INDUCED BY BOTH CHEMO AND RADIATION**



**FETAL GROWTH
RESTRICTION**

INFERTILITY

**INCREASED
BREECH**

**CHEMOTHERAPY
RADIATION**

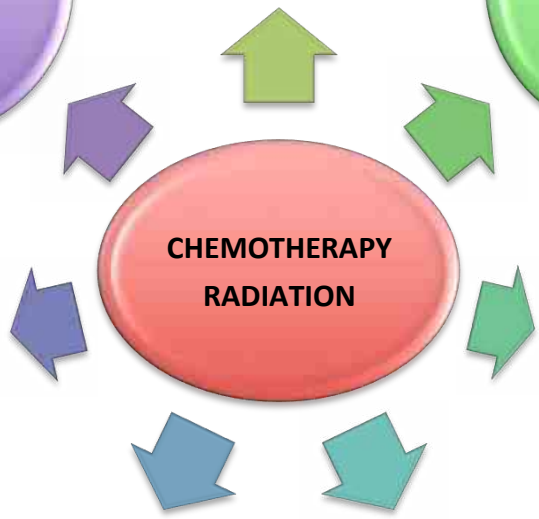
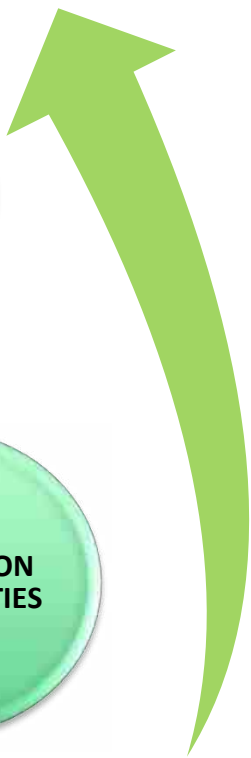
**PREMATURE
OVARIAN
FAILURE**

**PLACENTATION
ABNORMALITIES**

ABORTION

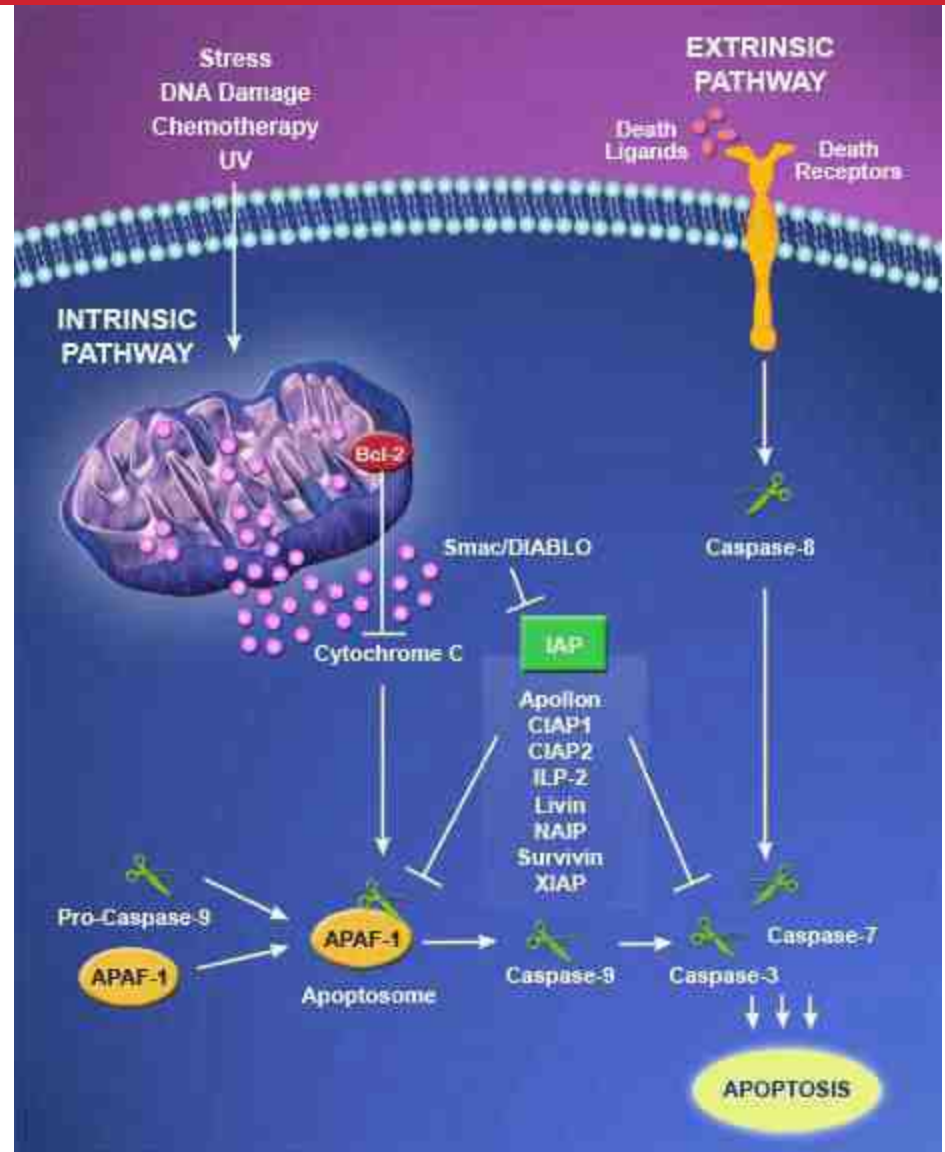
**PRETERM
BIRTH**

**PREPUBERTAL EXPOSURE
MAINLY DUE TO UTERINE
DAMAGE INDUCED BY RADIATION**



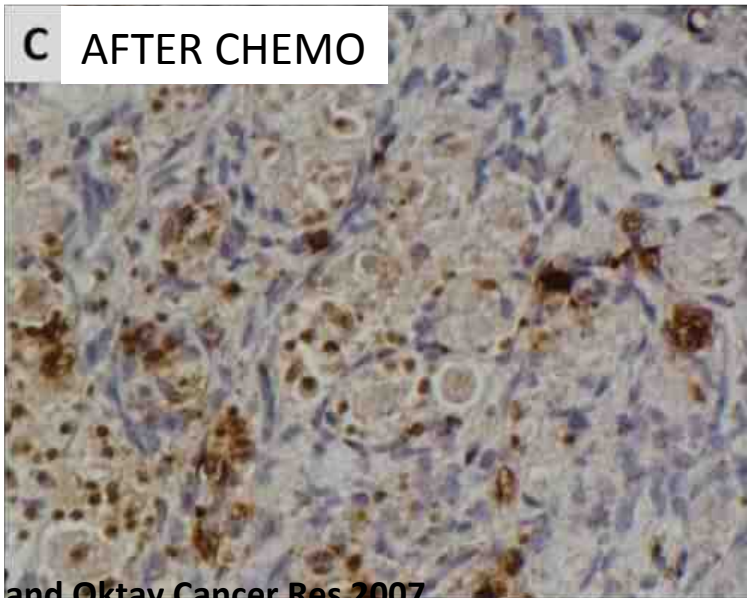
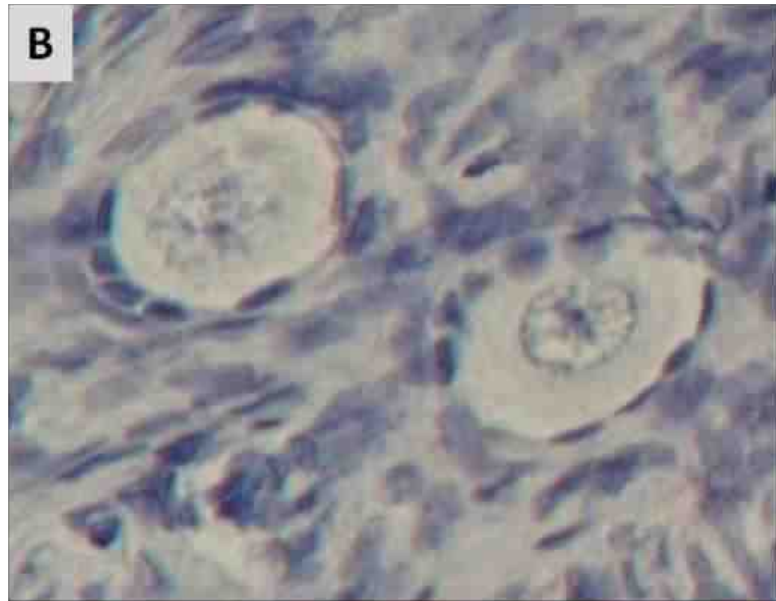
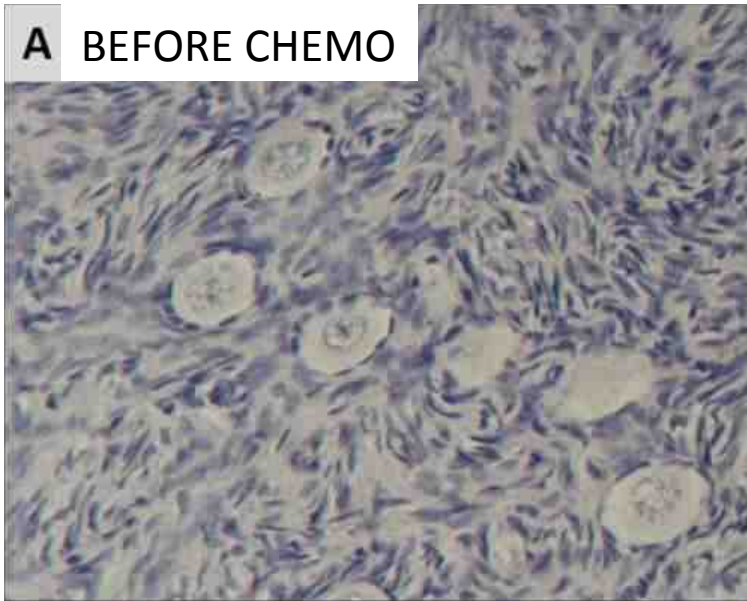


Chemotherapy induced cytotoxicity



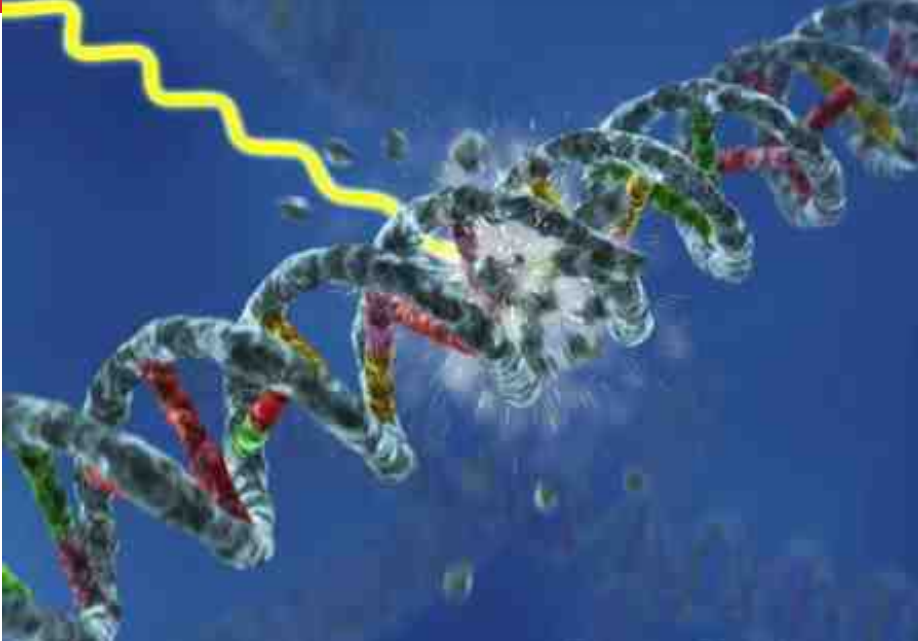


APOPTOTIC OOCYTE DEATH AFTER CHEMOTHERAPY (TUNNEL STAINING)





RADIATION and GONADOTOXICITY



- **DAMAGE TO DNA.**
as neutrons and particles
- Indirect actions due to formation of free radicals and DNA damage. This mechanism is particularly true for sparsely ionizing radiation such as x-rays.

HSCT

■ TBI

- 20-30 Gy \Rightarrow 37/38
Ovarian failure

■ TBI + Cyc

- OR: ~1 (1 y1)
- 135/144 patients have
POF

The higher the dose of radiation

The higher the risk of premature ovarian failure !

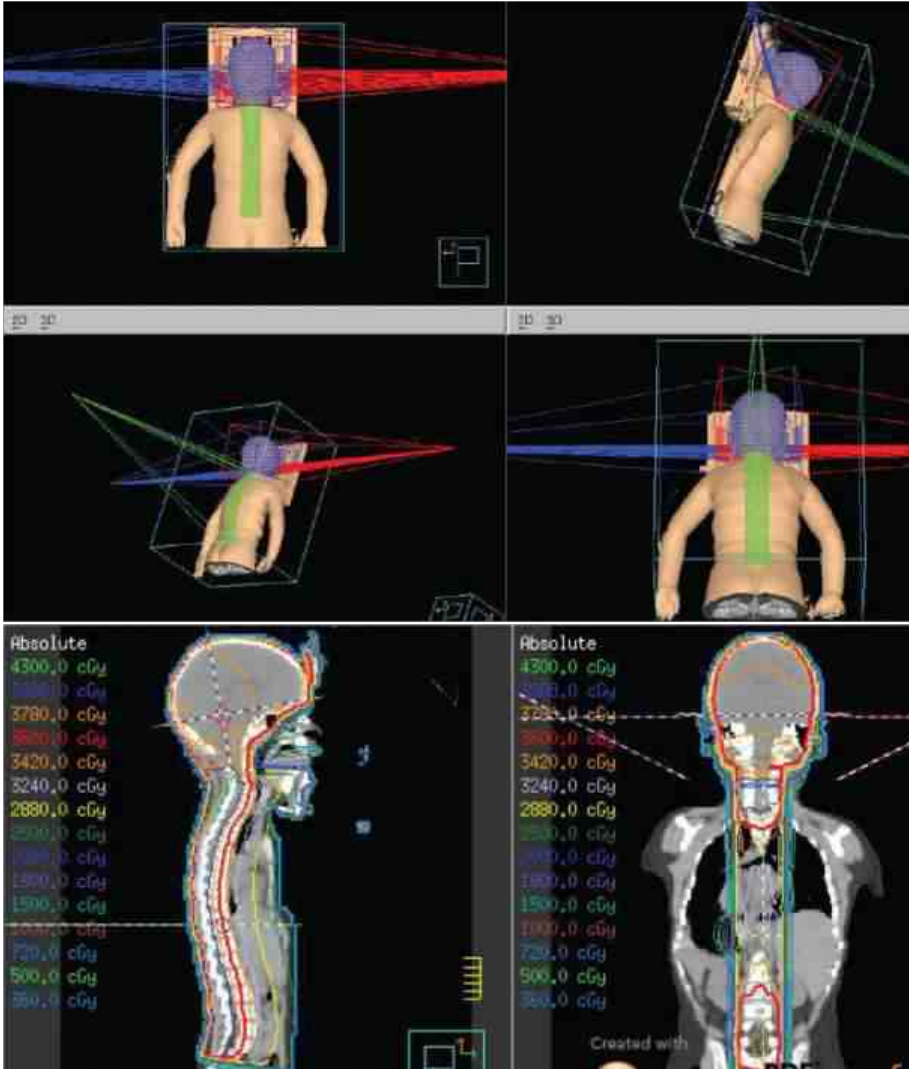
Single dose is more toxic than fractionated dose.

The LD₅₀ of the human oocytes may be 1.99 Gy* ; less than the previously thought (4 Gy)**

100cGy=1Gy=100 Rad

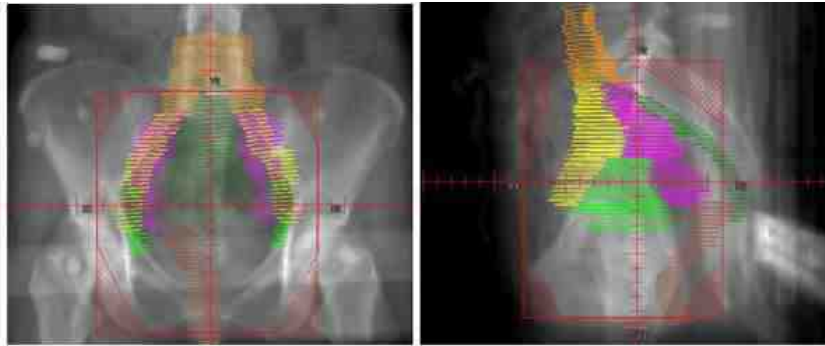


IRRADIATION FIELDS





PELVIC RADIATION



Radiosensitizer



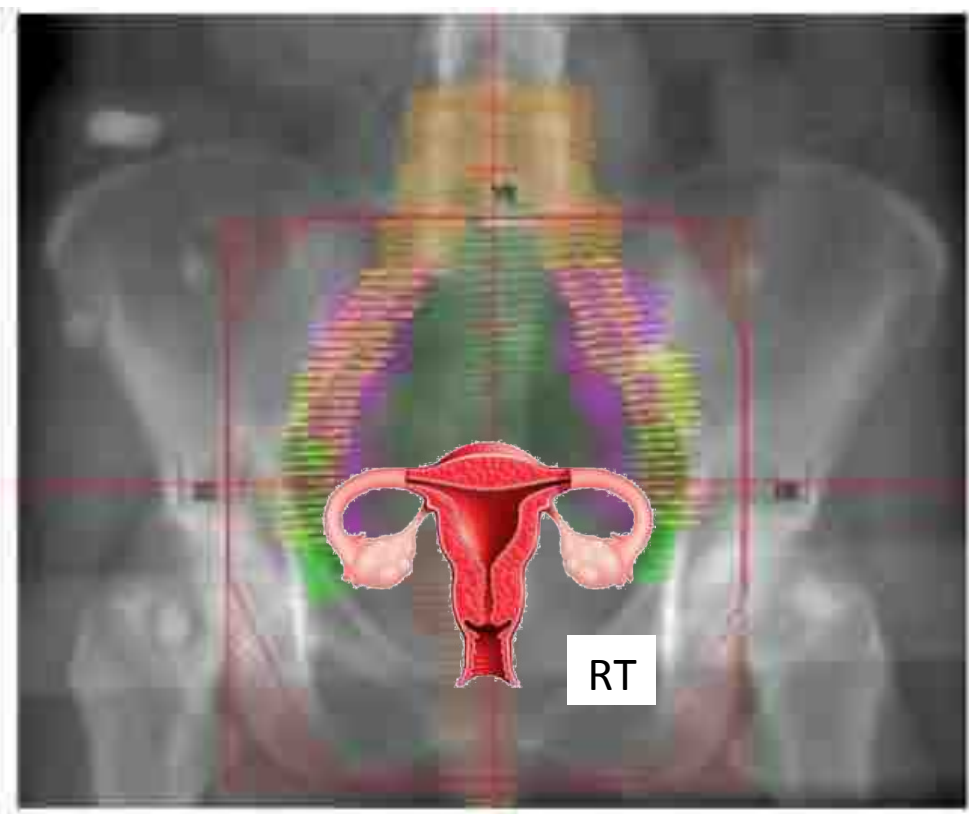
Pelvic radiotherapy (women: adjusted OR 20.24, 95 % CI 4.69–87.29; men: 12.22; 1.18–126.70) than those who were 'fertile/ probably fertile'.

Etoposide, particularly $\geq 5,000$ mg/m² in women, and carboplatin and/or cisplatin in both sexes seemed to have independent risk potential for infertility.



The uterine impact of RT

- Pelvic
- Total body
- Whole abdomen
- Craniospinal





Uterus

- The threshold radiation dose for uterine damage to occur such that pregnancy is not sustainable is unknown.
- To our knowledge no successful pregnancy has been reported after a direct radical dose (>45 Gy) to the whole pelvis.
- It appears that younger age at uterine radiation leads to greater adverse effects on uterine reproductive capacity, particularly in prepubertal girls.
- The radiation-induced uterine injury is also dose and site dependent and with more severe uterine damage occurs with higher dose radiation and radiation directly involving the uterus.



Uterus

- Radiation doses of >25 Gy directly to the uterus in childhood appears to induce irreversible damage.
- Exposure of adult uterus to TBI (12 Gy) is associated with increased risk of miscarriage, preterm labour, and low birth weight babies.
- The mechanisms of impaired uterine function following radiotherapy are not clearly defined; however, impaired uterine blood supply, defective endometrial function, and poor uterine distensibility have all been implicated.

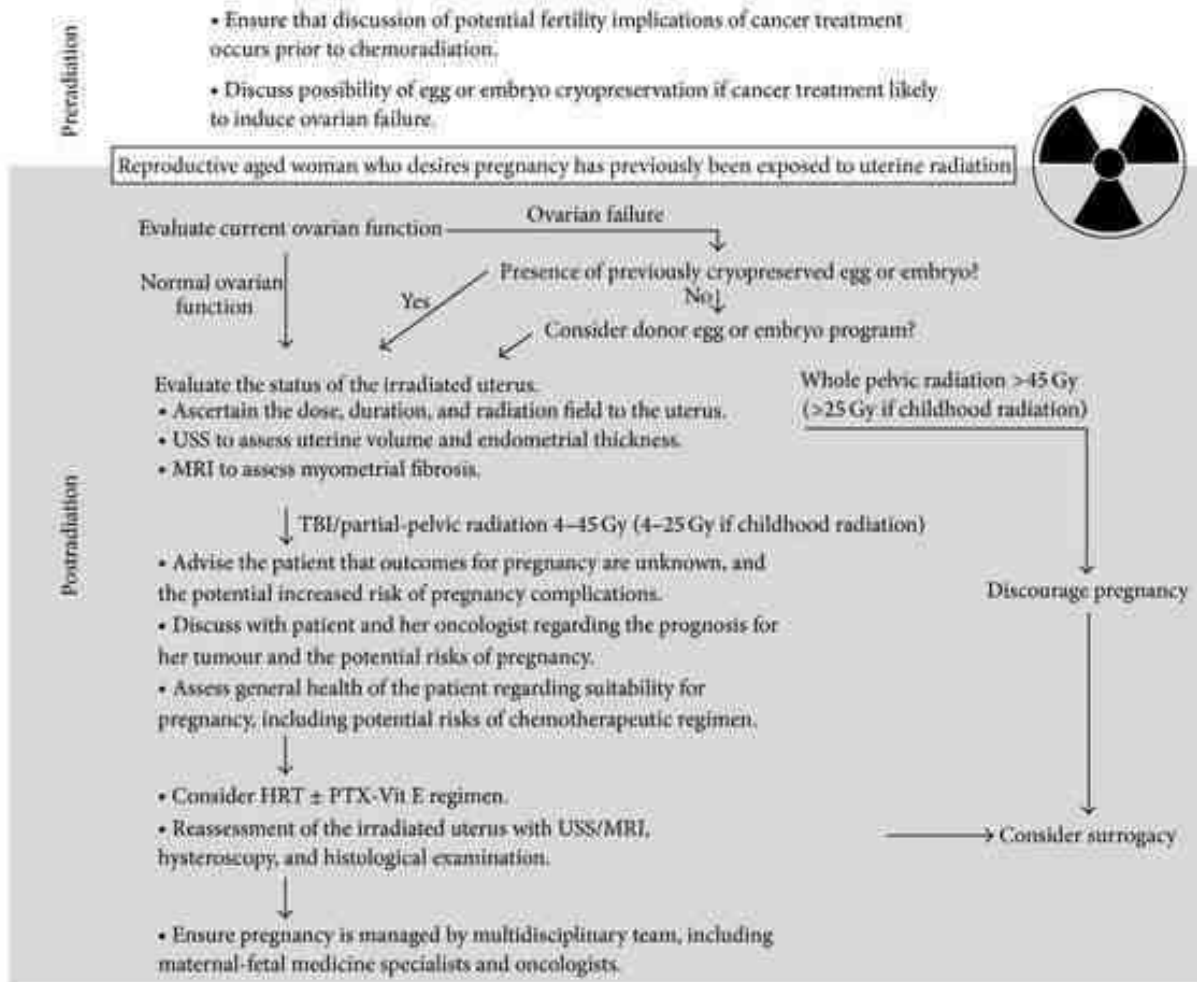


Uterus

- It has been suggested that the uterine damage from radiation is related to
 - damage to the endometrium, therefore impairing normal decidualization and interference with placentation.
 - damage to the uterine vasculature and impairment of future trophoblast invasion, which ultimately can decrease fetal-placental blood flow causing fetal growth restriction.
 - development of myometrial fibrosis which reduces uterine elasticity and volume. This can lead to preterm labour and delivery.

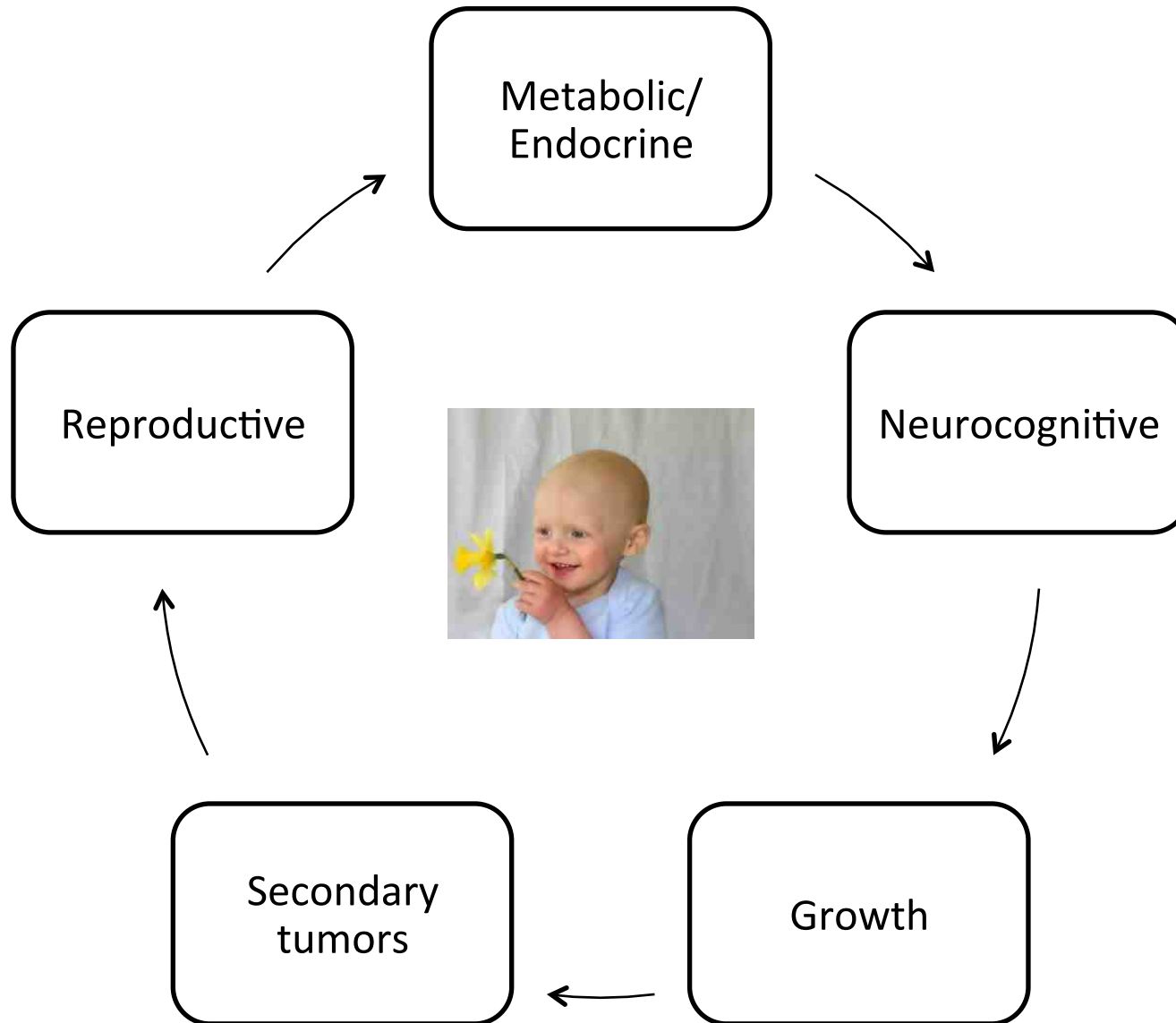


Uterus





Long term adverse health outcomes in the survivors of pediatric cancer patients





The Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS)

- Childhood cancer survivors diagnosed between 1970 and 1986 were identified for this long-term, retrospective cohort study from participating centers in the United States and Canada.
- More than 14,000 survivors were surveyed and followed for long-term health outcomes.
- In addition, about 4,000 of their siblings were recruited as comparison subjects.
- Due to the significant changes in therapy for children with cancer over the past 30 years, a second group of about 10,000 survivors diagnosed between 1987 and 1999 and about 1,000 of their siblings were also recruited for the study.



The Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS)

- 3531 survivors and 1366 female sibling controls
- Compared with their siblings, survivors had
 - an increased risk (relative risk [RR] 1.48 [95% CI 1.23–1.78]; $p < 0.0001$) of clinical infertility (ie, >1 year of attempts at conception without success),
 - Increasing doses of uterine radiation and alkylating agent chemotherapy were strongly associated with infertility.
 - Although survivors had an increased time to pregnancy compared with their siblings ($p = 0.032$), 292 (64%) of 455 participants with self-reported clinical infertility achieved a pregnancy.

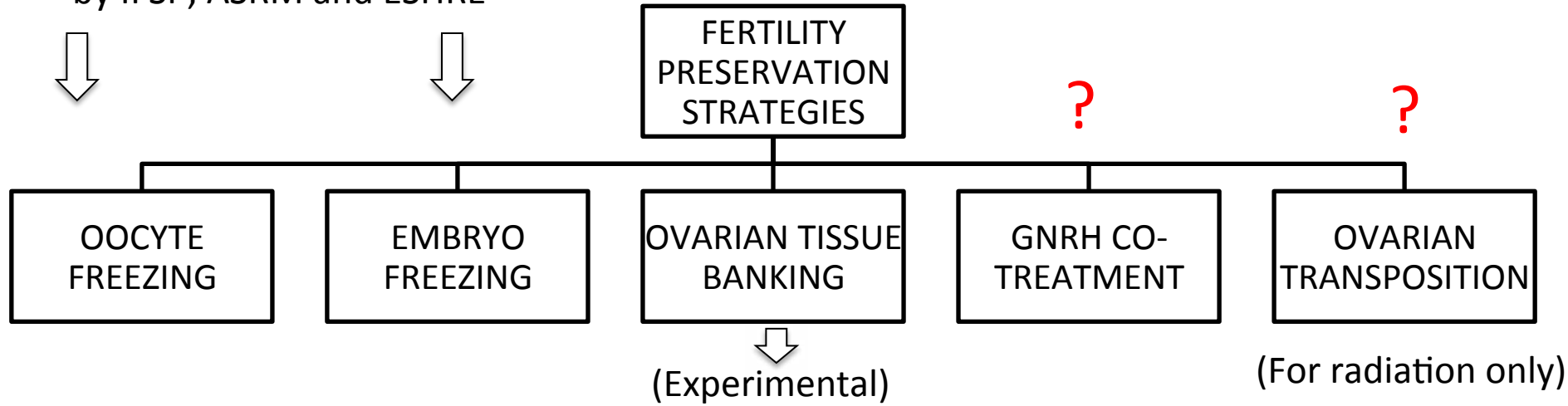


ADULT SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD CANCERS

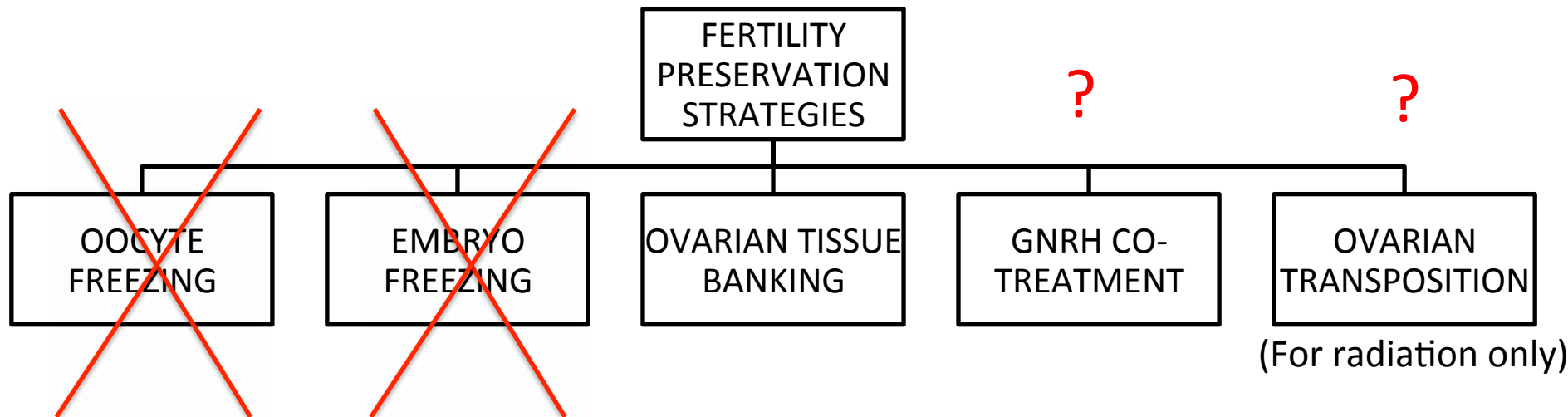
- Survivors cured with minimal gonadotoxic treatment had significantly higher AMH and AFC compared with survivors cured with either potentially gonadotoxic treatment or treatment including alkylating chemotherapy and ovarian irradiation
 - (20.0, 5.8 and <3 pmol/l, $P < 0.001$; and 15, 9 and 2, $P = 0.03$, respectively).
 - Lower AMH (median 13.0 versus 17.8 pmol/l)

Considered as the only established methods by IFSP, ASRM and ESHRE

ADULTS



CHILDREN

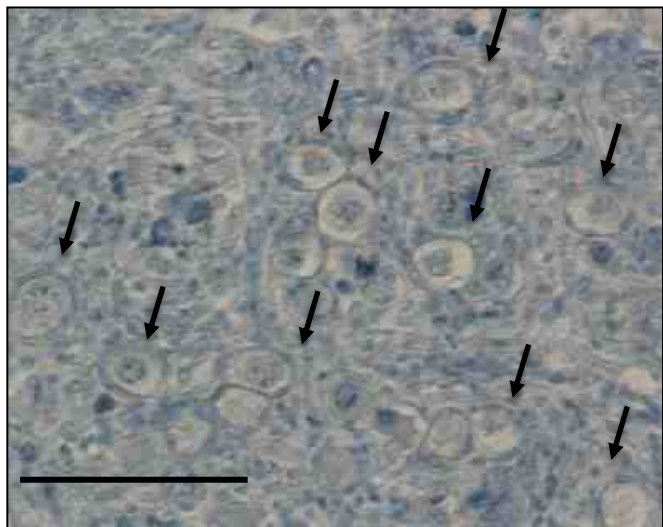




OVARIAN TISSUE BANKING TO PRESERVE FERTILITY

- **Ovarian tissue cryopreservation** is the only available option of fertility preservation in pediatric age group.
- Ovarian stimulation for oocyte/embryo freezing is not possible due to sexual immaturity.
- Ovarian tissue cryopreservation, **if the risk of ovarian failure after cancer treatment is high enough to justify the procedure such as HSCT.**

AGE 10

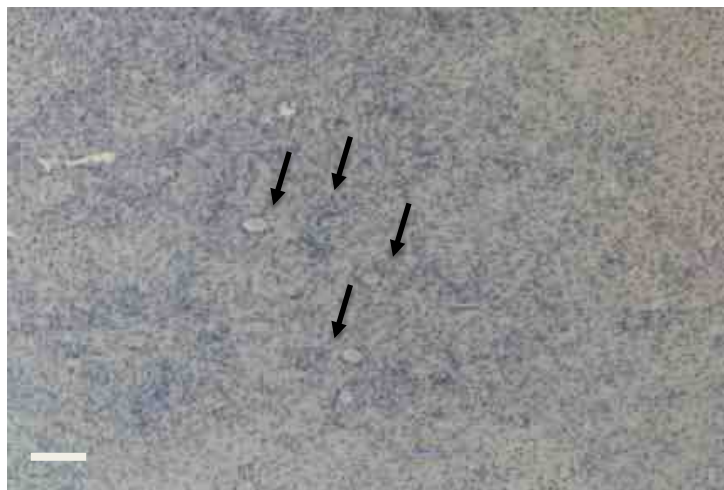


**HIGHER CHANCE OF RECOVERING
OVARIAN FUNCTION
HIGHER RESIDUAL OVARIAN RESERVE
POST EXPOSURE TO CHEMO/RT**



LOW-RISK FOR POF

AGE 37



**LOWER CHANCE OF RECOVERING
OVARIAN FUNCTION
LOWER RESIDUAL OVARIAN RESERVE
POST EXPOSURE TO CHEMO/RT**



HIGH-RISK FOR POF



CASE-1

- Age:6
- Dx: Medulloblastoma
- Tx option:
 - Cyclophosphamide+Temazolamide
 - Carboplatin, cisplatin, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, vincristine
 - Craniospinal RT:CSI doses of 23.4 Gy (for “standard risk” disease), the ovaries received approximately 1Gy and in those receiving CSI doses between 36 and 39.6 Gy (for “high risk” disease), the ovaries received approximately 2Gy.

OR

HIGH DOSE CHEMOTHERAPY PRIOR TO AUTOLOG STEM CELL RESCUE



CASE-1

- Age:6
- Dx: Medulloblastoma
- Tx option:
 - Cyclophosphamide+Temazolamide
 - Carboplatin, cisplatin, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, vincristine
 - Craniospinal RT:CSI doses of 23.4 Gy (for “standard risk” disease), the ovaries received approximately 1Gy and in those receiving CSI doses between 36 and 39.6 Gy (for “high risk” disease), the ovaries received approximately 2Gy.



The rate of ovarian function is 60-100%



CASE-1

- Age:6
- Dx: Medulloblastoma
- Tx option:
 - High dose chemotherapy for Autolog Stem Cell Rescue
 - etoposide, carboplatin, thiotepa or,
 - carboplatin and thiotepa



The rate of ovarian function:0%
Primary ovarian dysfunction:100%
POF:>%60



Risk Factors for POF in Pediatric Age Group

- ASSR, HSCT
- Pelvic RT
- Etoposide, Platinum, Cyclophosphamide



OVARIAN TISSUE BANKING TO PRESERVE FERTILITY

- Pathological examination of removed ovaries is a prerequisite to rule out any microscopic tumoral invasion in the ovaries especially in cancers with a high risk of ovarian metastasis such as
 - leukemia,
 - neuroblastoma
 - genital rhabdomyosarcoma.



Ovarian Freezing in Childhood Cancers

| Patient | Age | Diagnosis | Indication for Fertility Preservation |
|---------|-----|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 4 | <i>Diamond – Blackfan Syndrome</i> | HSCT |
| 2 | 6 | <i>Thalassemia Major</i> | HSCT |
| 3 | 8 | <i>Diploid – Triploid Mosaicism</i> | Gonadectomy |
| 4 | 8 | <i>Wilms tumor</i> | Chemotherapy |
| 5 | 8 | <i>Rhabdomyosarcoma</i> | Radiotherapy |
| 6 | 10 | <i>Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia</i> | HSCT |
| 7 | 10 | <i>Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia</i> | HSCT |
| 8 | 16 | <i>SLE with glomerulonephritis</i> | Chemotherapy |
| 9 | 16 | <i>Turner Syndrome</i> | POF |
| 10 | 16 | <i>Turner Syndrome</i> | POF |
| 11 | 17 | <i>Hodgkin's Lymphoma</i> | HSCT |
| 12 | 17 | <i>Hodgkin's Lymphoma</i> | HSCT |
| 13 | 17 | <i>Ovarian Carcinoma</i> | Gonadectomy |
| 14 | 17 | <i>Myelodysplasia</i> | HSCT |
| 15 | 18 | <i>Ewing Sarcoma</i> | Chemotherapy |
| 16 | 18 | <i>Hodgkin's Lymphoma</i> | HSCT |
| 17 | 18 | <i>Acute Myelocytic Leukemia</i> | HSCT |
| 18 | 18 | <i>Non – Hodgkin's Lymphoma</i> | HSCT |
| 19 | 19 | <i>Wegener Disease</i> | Chemotherapy |
| 20 | 19 | <i>Immature Teratoma</i> | Gonadectomy |
| 21 | 20 | <i>Non – Hodgkin's Lymphoma</i> | HSCT |
| 22 | 21 | <i>Acute Myelocytic Leukemia</i> | HSCT |
| 23 | 21 | <i>Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia</i> | HSCT |

Oktem et al Ann N Y Acad Sci. 2008

Oktem et al Pediatr Blood Cancer 2009



CASE SERIES OF OVARIAN TISSUE FREEZING IN THE PEDIATRIC AGE GROUP

| Authors | Patients (n) | Age (years) | | Patients under 16 years | | Patients under 10 years | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|------|-------------------------|-----|-------------------------|----|
| | | Range | Mean | n | % | n | % |
| Feigin et al. (2007) | 23 | 5-17.5 | 13.5 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Poirot et al. (2007) | 47 | 0.8-15 | 6.1 | 47 | 100 | 38 | 81 |
| Anderson et al. (2008b) | 36 | 5-35 | 19.2 | 11 | 31 | 3 | 8 |
| Revel et al. (2009) | 19 | 5-20 | 15.3 | 8 | 42 | 2 | 11 |
| Oktay and Oktem (2009) | 26 | 4-21 | 14.3 | 9 | 35 | 6 | 23 |
| Borgström et al. (2009) | 57 | 8-19.8 | 14.4 | 40 | 70 | 4 | 7 |
| Jadoul et al. (present publication) | 58 | 0.8-15.8 | 10.4 | 58 | 100 | 21 | 36 |

From: Jadoul, P., *Hum Reprod Update* 16, 617-30 (2010).

Oktay, K. & Oktem, O *Pediatr Blood Cancer* 53, 267-73 (2009).

Feigin, E. et al.. *J Pediatr Surg* 42, 862-4 (2007).

Anderson, R.A., *Reproduction* 136, 681-9 (2008).

Revel, A. *Fertil Steril* 92, 458-63 (2009).

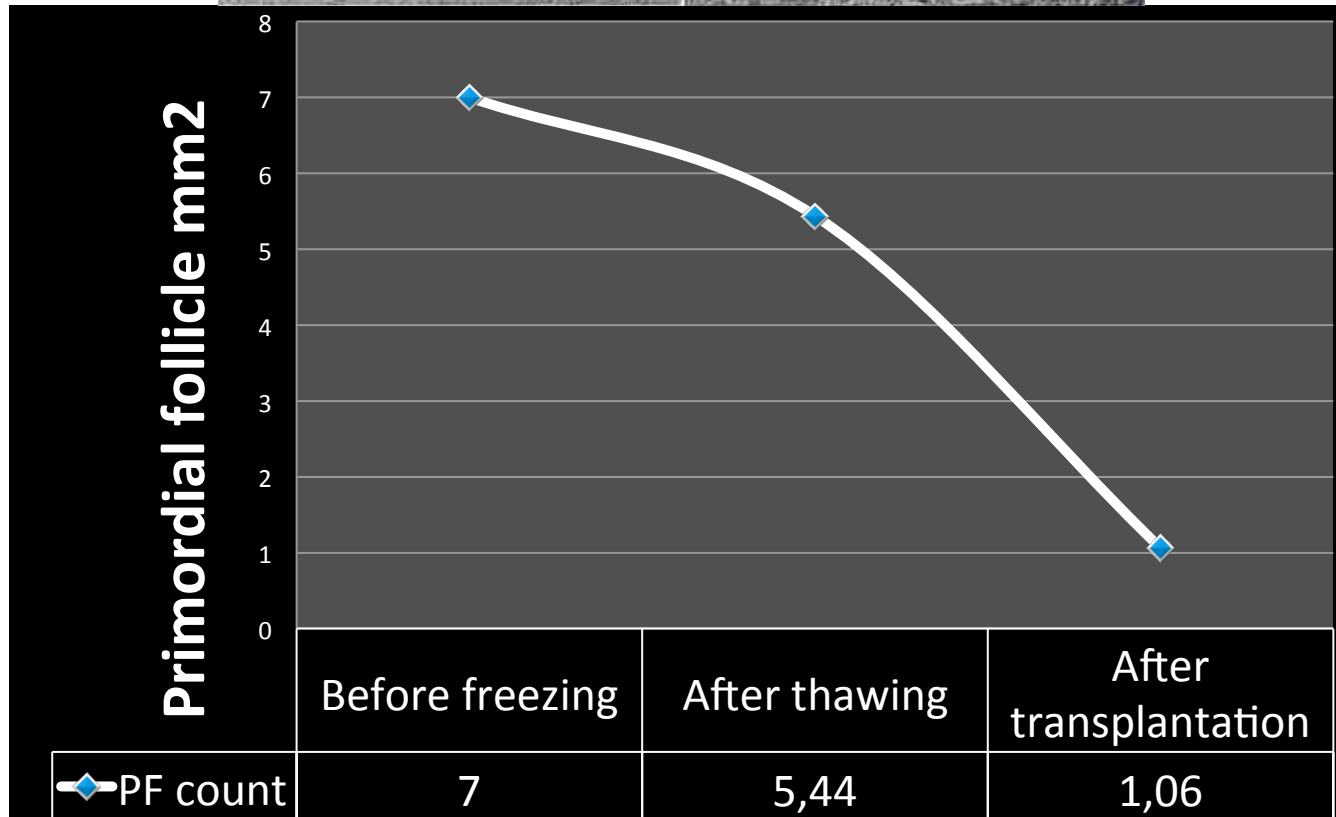
Borgstrom, B. et al. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 94, 74-80 (2009).

Jadoul, P., *Hum Reprod Update* 16, 617-30 (2010).

Poirot, C.J. et al. *Pediatric blood & cancer* 49, 74-8 (2007).



ADULT OVARY





Any data on the long-term viability
and function of prepubertal
cryopreserved ovaries?



- Luycyx et al (Fertil Steril 2013) evaluated cryopreserved ovarian tissue from deceased patients
- Five deceased prepubertal patients were selected for this study (alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma, lymphoblastic lymphoma, humerus osteosarcoma, Ewing's sarcoma, acute lymphoblastic leukemia).
- At the time of cryopreservation, the patients were aged between 7.2 and 12.2 years and all were prepubertal.
- Thawed tissues were xenografted into SCID mice.

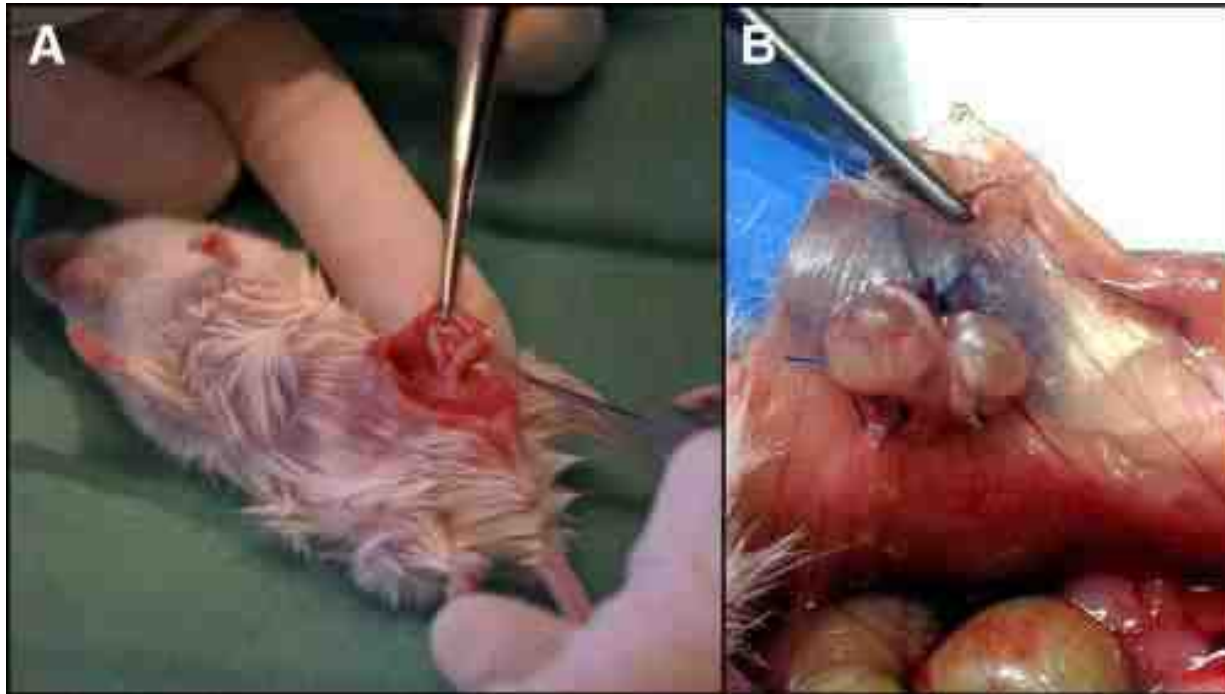


Figure 1. (A) Macroscopic view of the surgical procedure. After thawing, two ovarian fragments were grafted intraperitoneally to a female immunodeficient mouse. (B) After long-term grafting and exogenous stimulation, antral follicles were macroscopically obser...

Valérie Luyckx, Sarah Scalercio, Pascale Jadoul, Christiani Andrade Amorim, Michelle Soares, Jacques Donnez, Marie-Madeleine Dolmans

Evaluation of cryopreserved ovarian tissue from prepubertal patients after long-term xenografting and exogenous stimulation

Fertility and Sterility, Volume 100, Issue 5, 2013, 1350–1357.e3

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.fertnstert.2013.07.202>

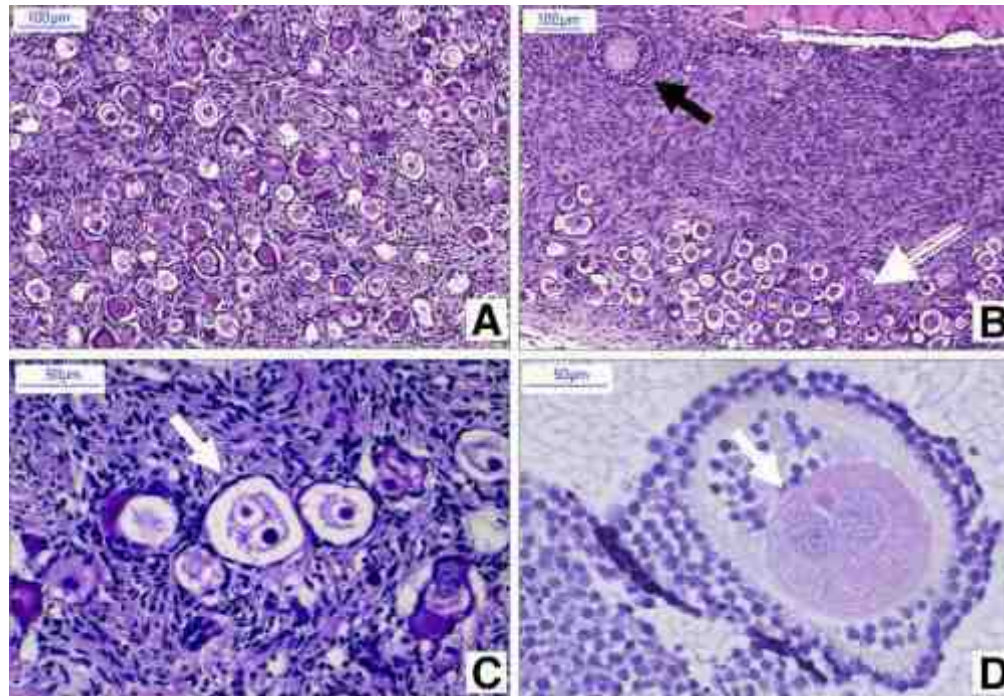


Figure 2. Histologic illustrations of ovarian tissue from prepubertal patients before (A and C) and after (B and D) grafting. (A) Histologic illustrations of ovarian tissue from prepubertal patients before grafting. All follicles were inactive and at the primo...

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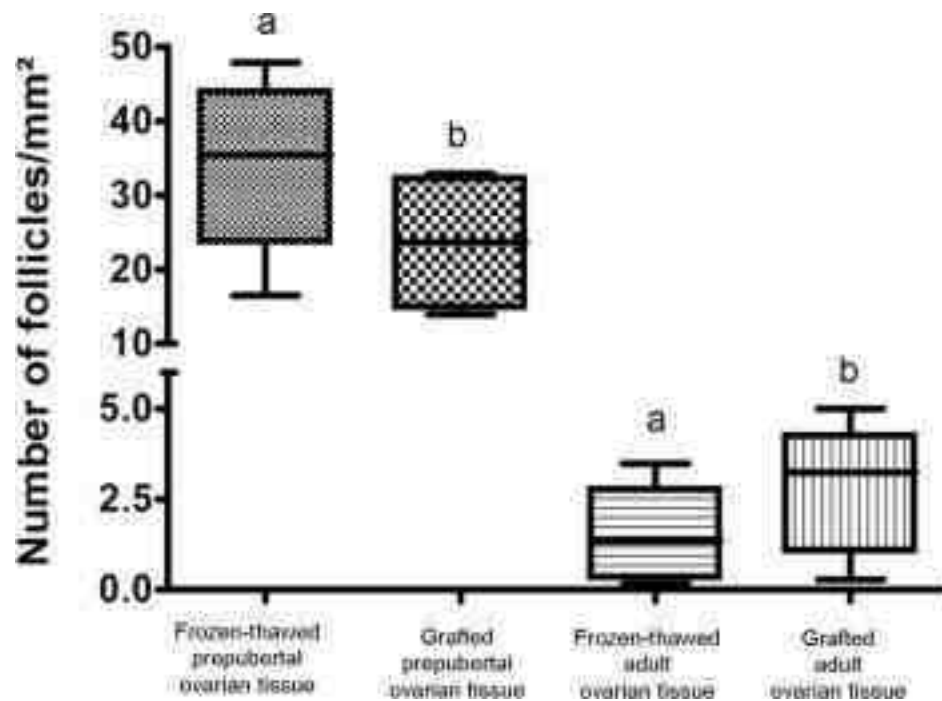


Figure 3. Graph representing follicular density (expressed as the number of ovarian follicles per mm²) in frozen-thawed and grafted ovarian tissue from prepubertal and adult patients. A significant difference ($P < .05$) was evidenced between frozen-thawed prep...

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-
- Do pediatric cancer patients or their parents receive an expert opinion/counselling about the risk of gonadal failure and FP strategies prior to cancer treatment?



-
- NO!



- Only 55% of the patients receive counseling
- White ethnicity
- higher annual income
- higher education level are significantly
- associated with a positive opinion about FP techniques.

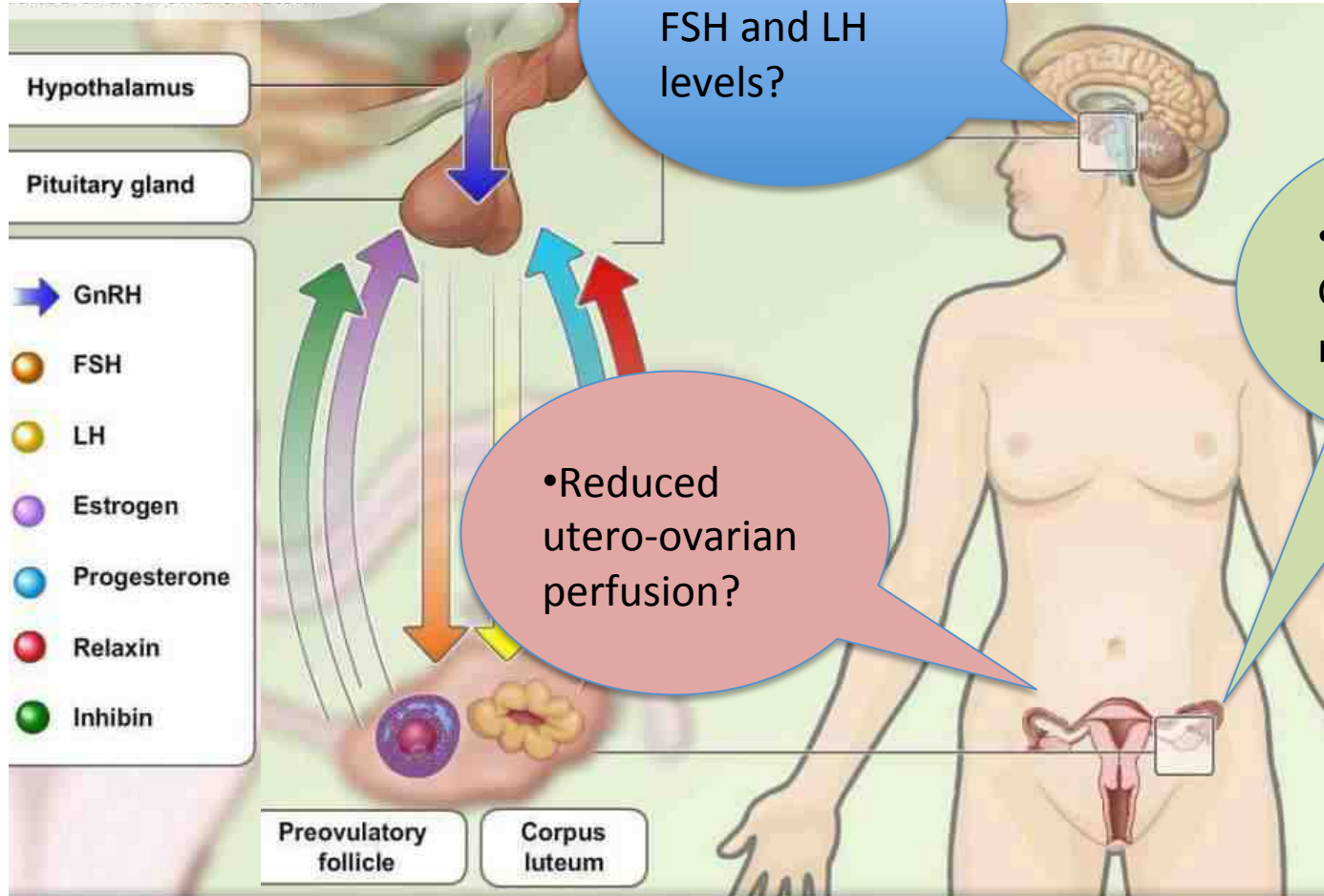


GnRH agonist for the prevention of ovarian damage induced by chemotherapy

- The administration of gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonists during chemotherapy has been proposed as a potential fertility preservation strategy to preserve ovarian reserve after emergence of the promising findings from anecdotal reports, primate models and non-randomized trials in human.
- However, randomized controlled trials (RCTs) have shown inconsistent results in female patients with cancer.



GnRH agonist for protection against chemotherapy?



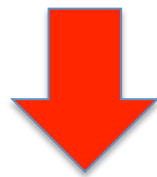


Proposed mechanisms of protective action with GnRHa

- Various mechanisms have been suggested,
 - GnRHa-induced decrease in the number of primordial follicles entering the differentiation stage,
 - reduction of ovarian perfusion due to a GnRHa-induced hypoestrogenic state,
 - decreased ovarian cell apoptosis, through either activation of GnRH receptors or upregulation of intragonadal antiapoptotic molecules (GnRHAs) during adjuvant chemotherapy.
 - But none of these theories has been validated so far



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 - GnRHa-induced decrease in the number of primordial follicles entering the differentiation stage,
 - reduction of ovarian perfusion due to a GnRHa-induced hypoestrogenic state,
 - decreased ovarian cell apoptosis, through either activation of GnRH receptors or upregulation of intragonadal antiapoptotic molecules (GnRHAs) during adjuvant chemotherapy.



GnRH agonist leuprolide acetate does not confer any protection against ovarian damage induced by chemotherapy and radiation *in vitro*

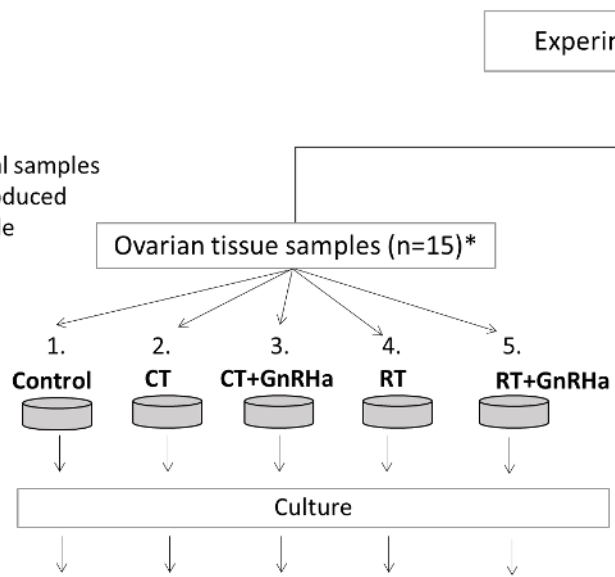
Gamze Bildik¹, Nazlı Akin¹, Filiz Senbabaoglu¹, Gizem Nur Sahin¹, Sercin Karahuseyinoglu², Umit Ince³, Cagatay Taskiran^{4,5}, Ugur Selek^{5,6,7}, Kayhan Yakin⁴, Yilmaz Guzel⁸, Cem Ayhan⁸, Ebru Alper⁸, Mustafa Cetiner^{5,9}, Basak Balaban⁸, Nil Molinas Mandel^{5,10}, Tarik Esen^{5,11}, Akira Iwase¹², Bulent Urman^{4,5,8}, and Ozgur Oktem^{4,5,8,*}

¹The Graduate School of Health Sciences, Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey ²Department of Histology and Embryology, Koc University School of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey ³Department of Pathology, Acibadem University School of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey ⁴Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Koc University School of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey ⁵Comprehensive Cancer Care and Fertility Preservation Programs American Hospital, Istanbul, Turkey ⁶Department of Radiation Oncology, Koc University School of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey ⁷Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA ⁸Assisted Reproduction Unit, Women's Health Center American Hospital, Istanbul, Turkey ⁹Department of Hematology and Oncology, Koc University School of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey ¹⁰Department of Medical Oncology, Koc University School of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey ¹¹Department of Urology and Urologic Oncology, Koc University School of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey ¹²Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan

*Correspondence address: Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Koc University Hospital, Davutpasa Topkapi, Istanbul, 34400 Turkey. E-mail: ooktem@ku.edu.tr

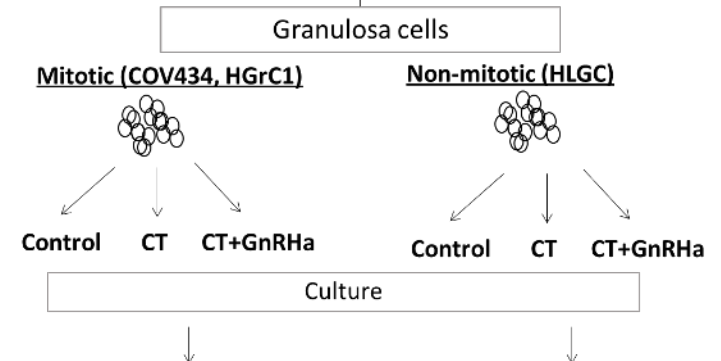
E2: Estradiol
 P: Progesterone
 AMH: Anti-mullerian hormone
 CT: Chemotherapy
 RT: Radiation

*: The total number of ovarian cortical samples
 Each treatment arm has 15 pieces produced
 from equal division of the main sample



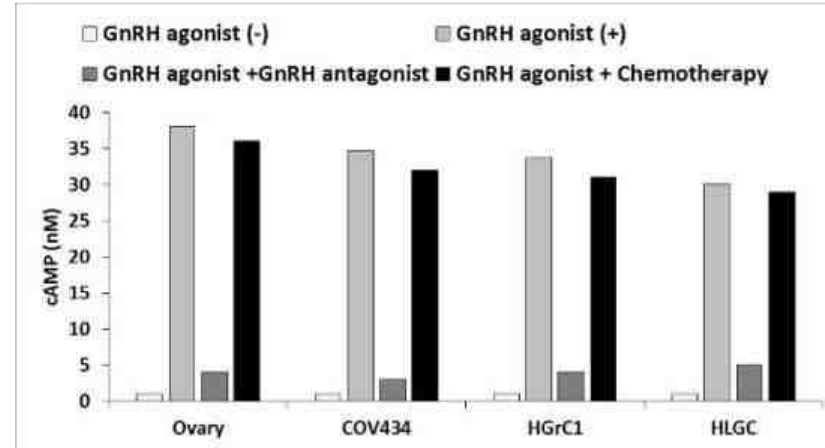
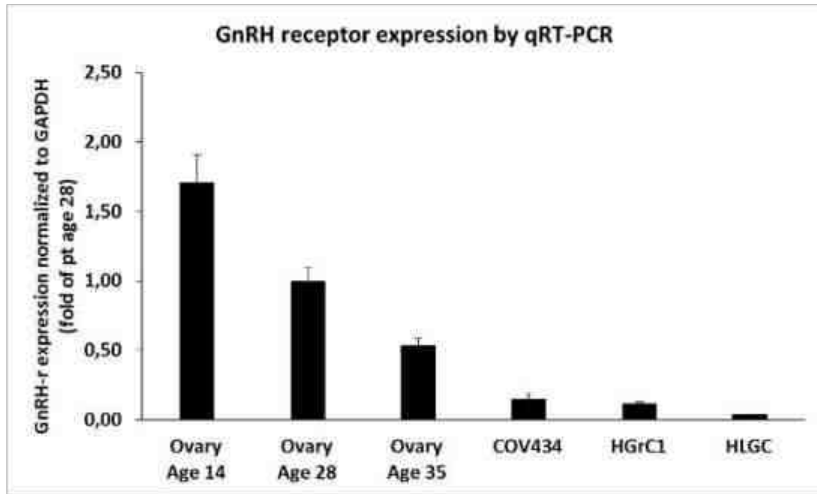
The samples were compared for

- Follicle reserve
- E2/P/AMH productions in vitro
- mRNA expression of anti-apoptotic proteins



The cells were compared for

- Growth rate (COV434 and HGrC1)
- Cell viability
- DNA damage
- Apoptosis
- E2/P productions in vitro (HLGC)



a: $p < 0.001$ (Friedman test)

Primordial and preantral/antral follicle counts

(Wilcoxon paired analysis)

Control vs. Cyc, $p < 0.01$

Control vs. Cyc±GnRH_a, $p < 0.01$

Cyc vs. Cyc+GnRH_a $p > 0.05$

Control vs. Cisplatin, $p < 0.05$

Control vs. Cisplatin+GnRH_a, $p < 0.05$

Cisplatin vs. Cisplatin+GnRH_a, $p > 0.05$

Control vs. Radiation, $p < 0.01$

Control vs. Radiation+GnRH_a, $p < 0.01$

Radiation vs. Radiation+GnRH_a, $p > 0.05$

b: $p < 0.05$ Preantral/antral follicle counts

Control vs. Paclitaxel±GnRH_a subgroups

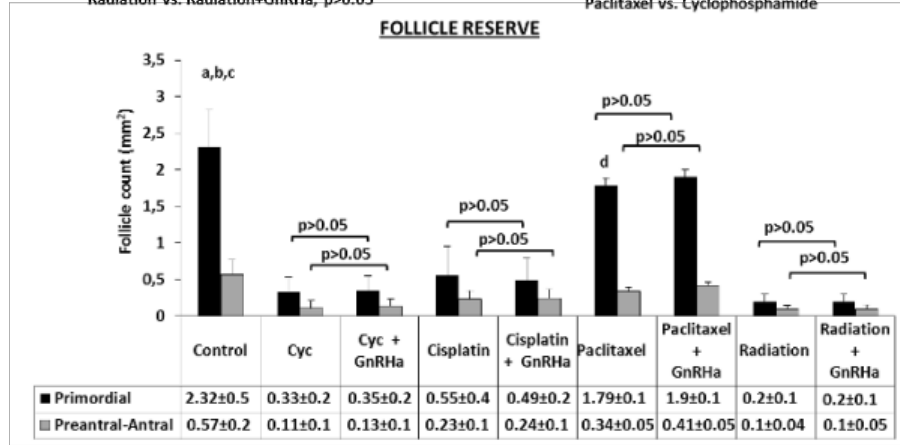
c: $p > 0.05$ Primordial follicle count

Control vs. Paclitaxel±GnRH_a subgroups

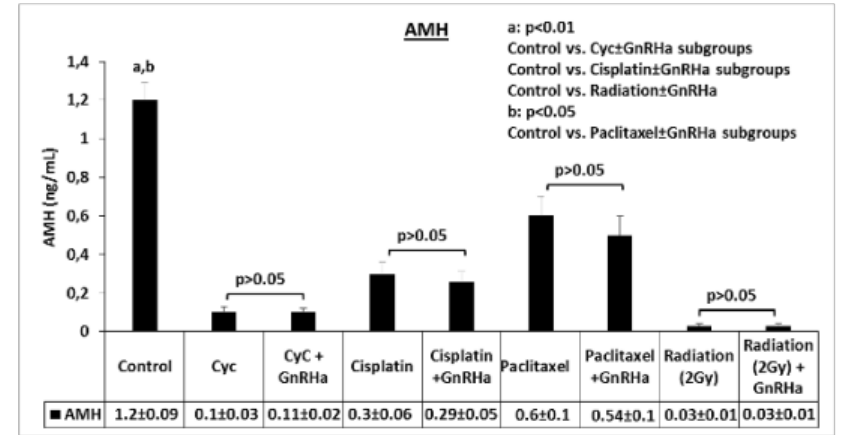
d: $p < 0.05$ Primordial follicle count

Paclitaxel vs. Cyclophosphamide

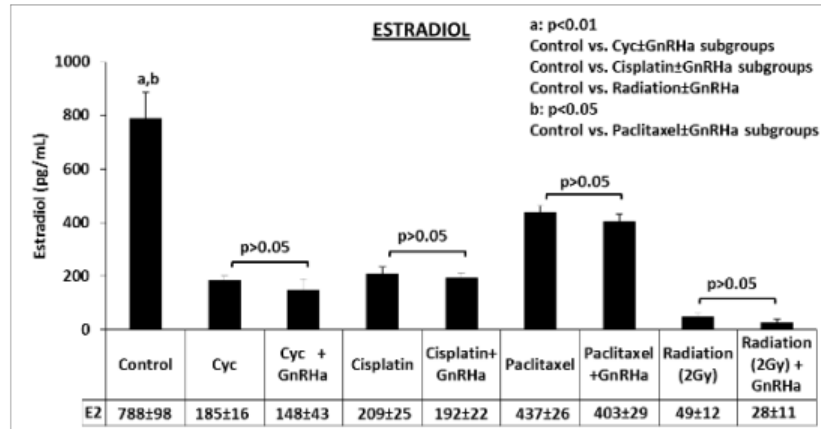
2A



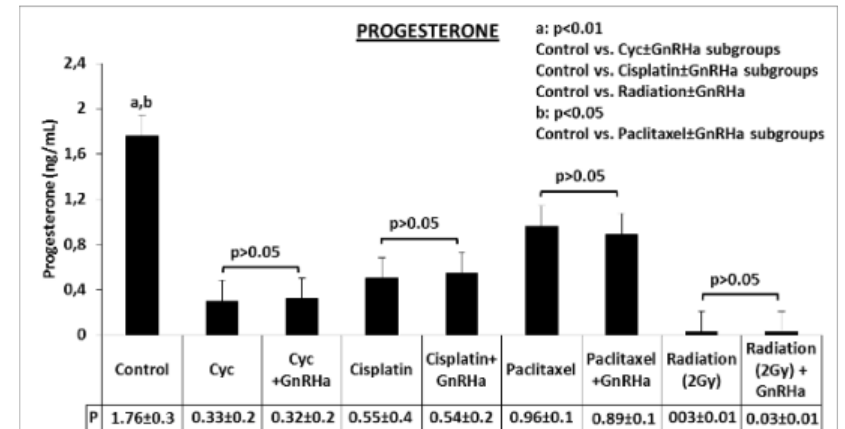
2B



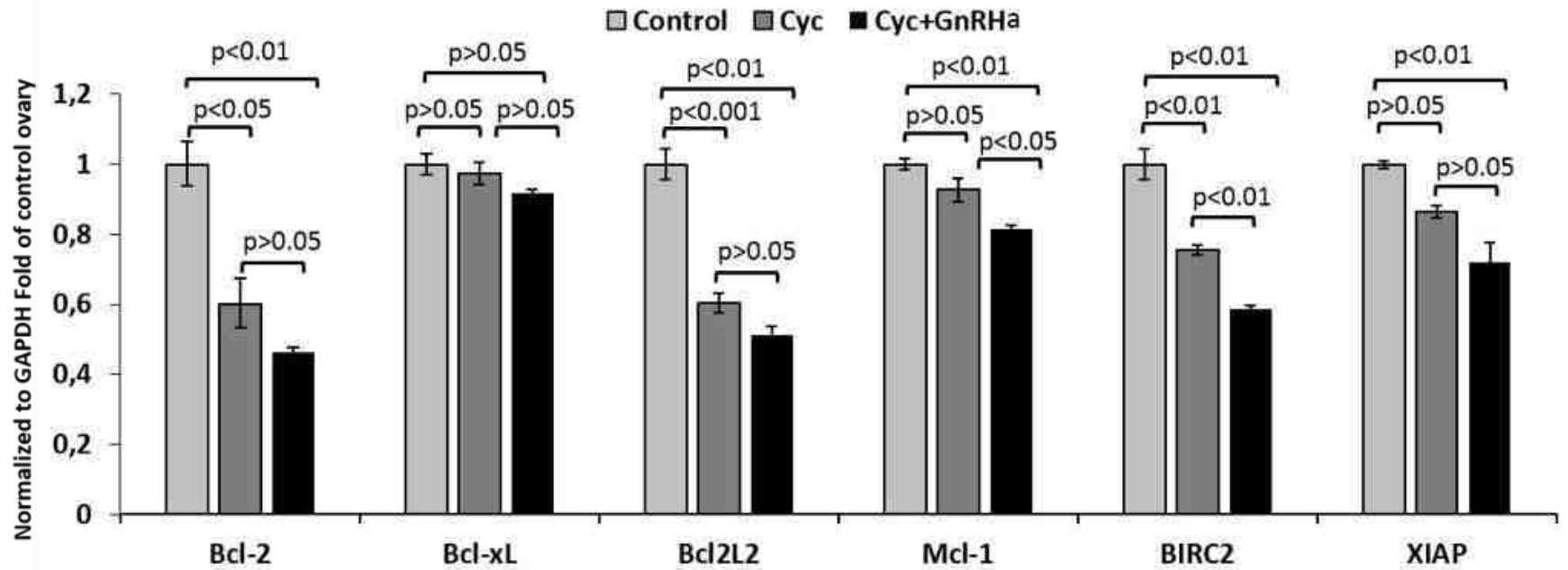
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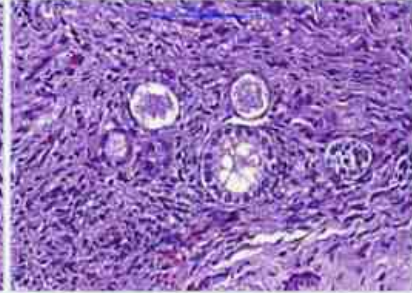
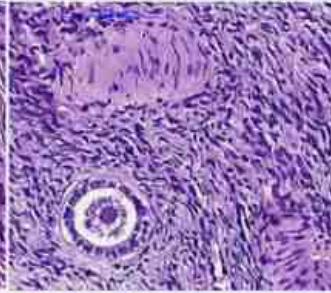
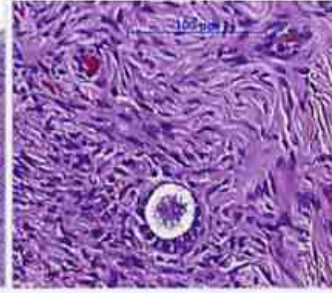
2D



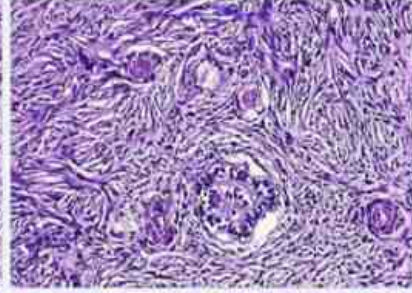
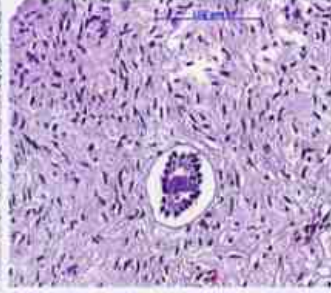
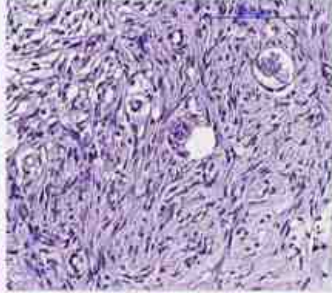
mRNA expression of the anti-apoptotic proteins



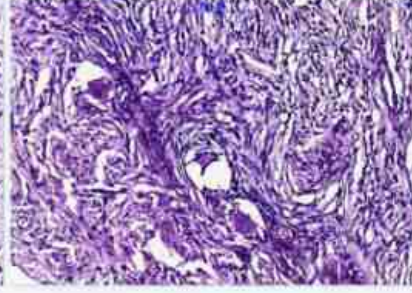
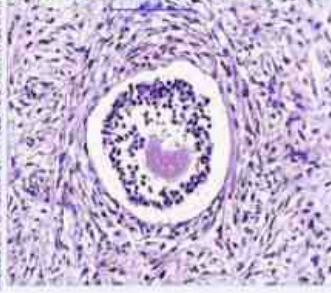
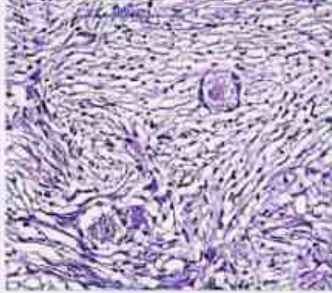
CONTROL



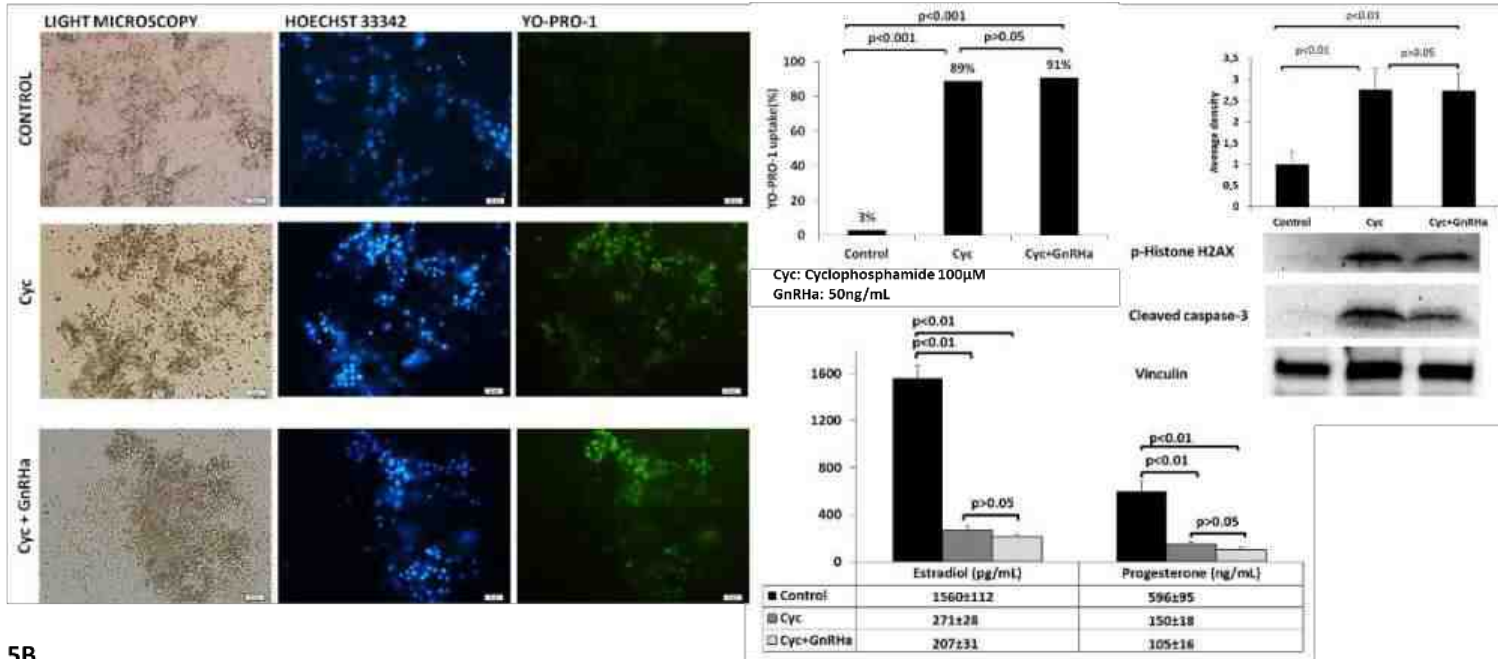
CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE



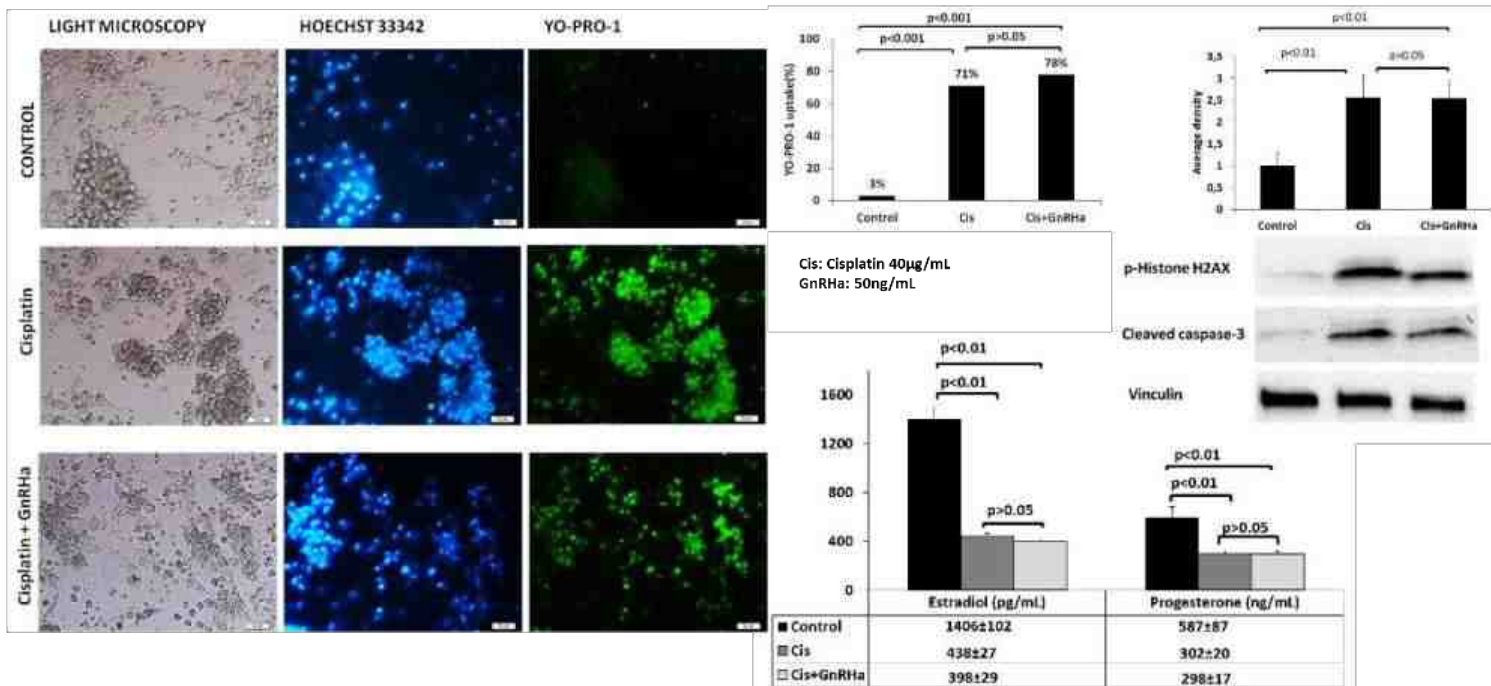
CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE +GNRHα

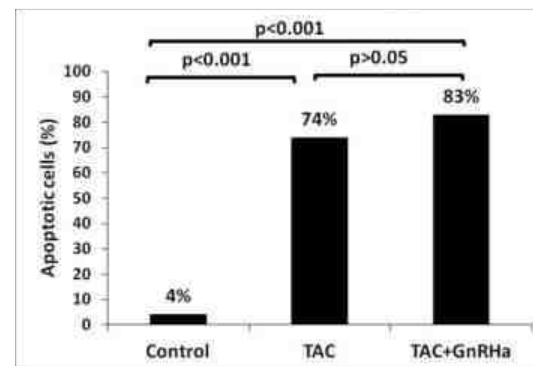
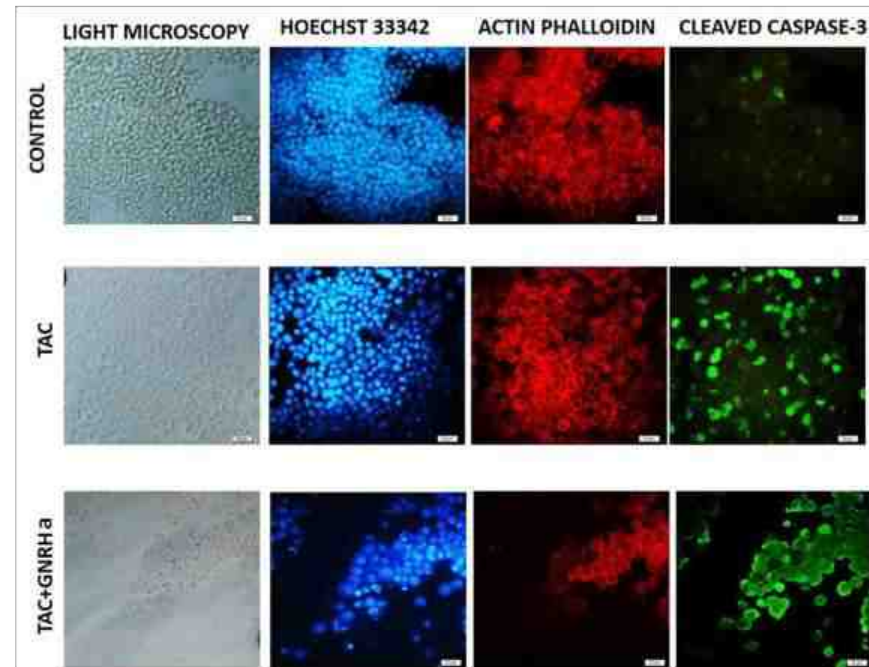
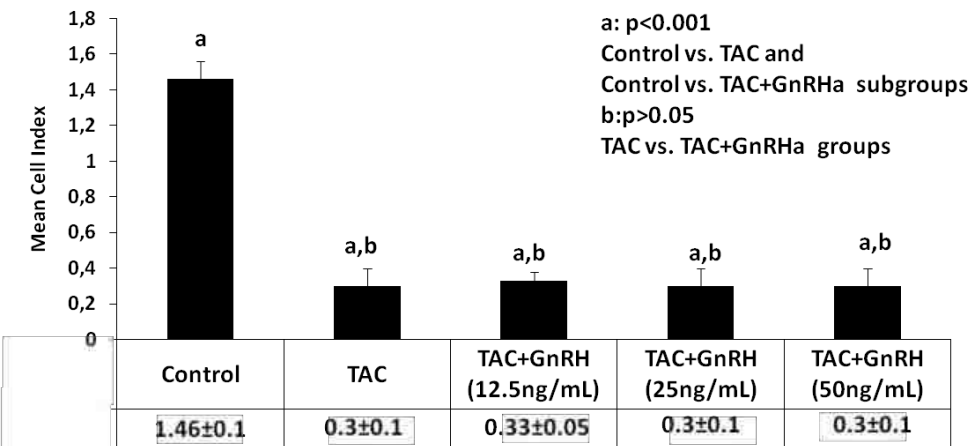
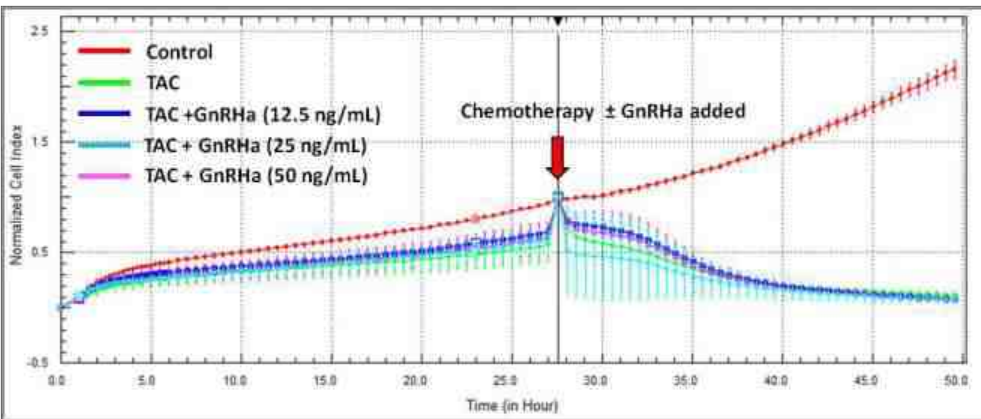


5A



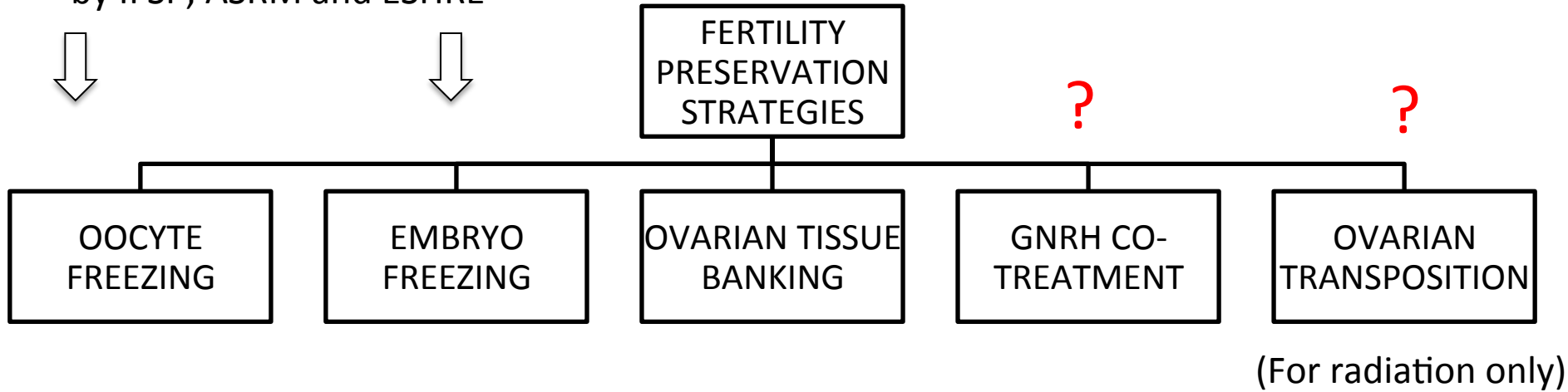
5B



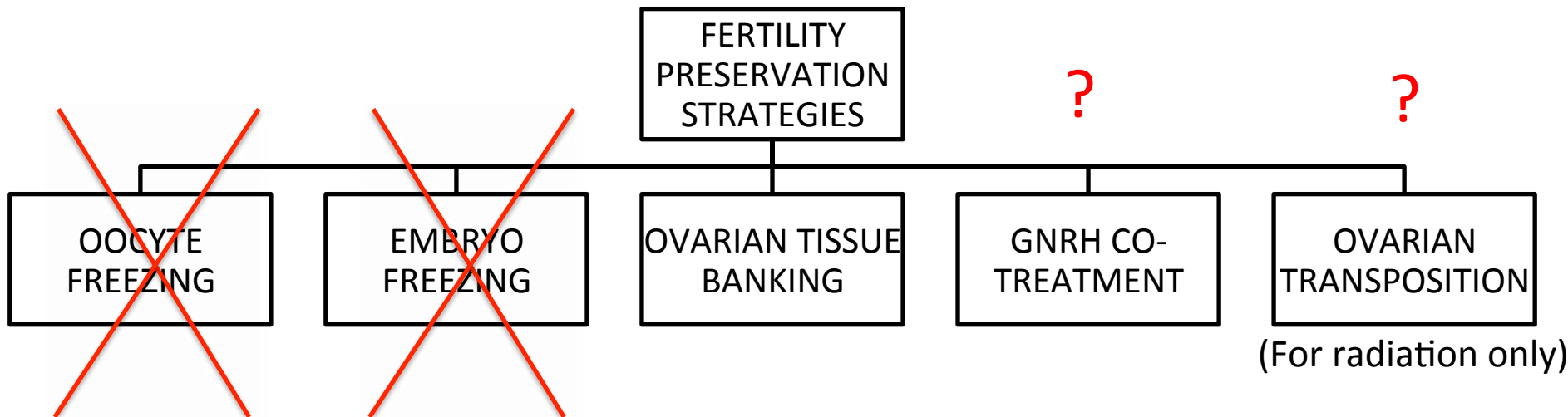


Considered as the only established methods by IFSP, ASRM and ESHRE

ADULTS



CHILDREN





Conlcusion

- Ovarian tissue cryopreservation is the only available method for pediatric cancer patients.
- No need to preserve fertility except
 - Pelvic RT,
 - High dose chemo (etoposide, platinum, cyclophosphamide)
 - HSCT



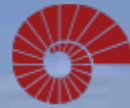
THANK YOU



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