

INITIATING A DISCUSSION ABOUT FERTILITY

Raising the issue of fertility is really important for many younger women diagnosed with breast cancer. Talking to a patient about fertility can be difficult. You don't have to know all the answers but being able to offer referral to a fertility expert is best practice.

Here are some examples of how to start the discussion about fertility with your patients and in your multidisciplinary team (MDT) meeting.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR PATIENTS AFTER DIAGNOSIS

'Were you aware that breast cancer treatment can affect a woman's fertility/ability to get pregnant?'

'Are you hoping to have children in the future and how important is this to you?'

'Has someone talked to you about the side effects of treatment and what these may mean for you?'

'What about babies...?'

'Have you thought about having children?'

'Would you like children in the future?'

'Have you got any children?'

'Were you hoping to have children in the future?'

If the woman already has children

'Have you completed your family or were you hoping for more children?'

QUESTIONS THAT MAY HELP YOU BRING UP FERTILITY ISSUES WITHIN THE MDT

'What about fertility?'

'Has this patient been offered a referral to a fertility specialist?'

GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL FERTILITY CLINIC

Name of fertility clinic

Telephone number

Fax number

Email address for referrals

Organise a visit to your local fertility clinic – establish communication and learn more about their staff and processes (such as whether they would like to receive a referral letter in addition to the form).



Find a list of fertility clinics on the HFEA (Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority) website