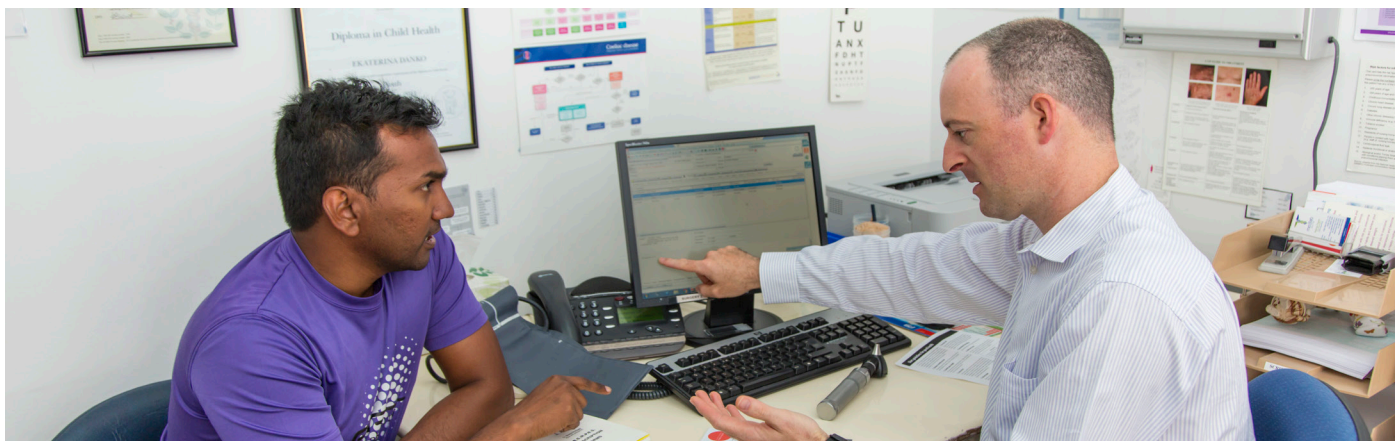


# Information for patients: Fertility in men having cancer treatment



## Some cancer treatments can reduce your fertility.

### How does treatment affect fertility?

Chemotherapy and **some** radiotherapy treatments can reduce your fertility by stopping the production of sperm (temporarily or permanently) and affecting the hormone testosterone.

### Are these changes permanent?

The effect of cancer treatment on fertility may be temporary or permanent, depending on:

- your age and general health
- the chemotherapy drugs used
- the dose of chemotherapy used
- the area of your body being treated
- the amount of radiation you receive
- whether you have chemotherapy **and** radiotherapy.

### What should I do?

Each person's situation, treatment regime and diagnosis is different. Before starting treatment, talk to your doctor, nurse or radiation therapist about:

- how your treatment may affect your fertility
- whether you want to have children in the future.

Your doctor may refer you to a fertility specialist.

### Important

You may still be fertile, during and immediately after your cancer treatment.

**You should use** a reliable method of **contraception** because some cancer treatments can damage your sperm and harm an unborn baby.

Ask your doctor or nurse about what contraception to use during your treatment.

Talk to your doctor, nurse or radiation therapist **immediately** if your partner is already pregnant or becomes pregnant during your treatment.

### For more information

- The Cancer Council has a booklet called *Fertility and Cancer*. Call 13 11 20 or visit [cancer.org.au/about-cancer/living-with-cancer](http://cancer.org.au/about-cancer/living-with-cancer)
- *Canteen* has information about fertility for young people affected by cancer. Visit [canteen.org.au](http://canteen.org.au)

### Key terms

- Male fertility:** Being able to make a woman pregnant.
- Male infertility:** Difficulty (or inability) to make a woman pregnant.
- Testosterone:** A hormone produced in the body that can influence your sex drive and your ability to get an erection.

[eviQ.org.au](http://eviQ.org.au)

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