



Aberdeen Fertility Centre
Aberdeen Maternity Hospital
Foresterhill
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Patient Information Egg Freezing

Egg freezing is an option that can be discussed with any woman who is about to undergo treatment which may impair their fertility e.g. chemotherapy, radiotherapy, surgery.

In order to obtain eggs a full IVF cycle must be undertaken, which includes stimulating the ovaries, ultrasound scanning and vaginal egg recovery. During IVF the drugs used to stimulate the ovaries can occasionally result in a quick response which may result in the cycle having to be cancelled.

Following egg recovery the mature eggs (not all eggs are necessarily mature) are prepared and gradually cooled to -196 degrees centigrade and placed in storage tanks. The Centre is licensed by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority to undertake the procedure and to store the eggs for ten years. In exceptional circumstances this may be extended to your 55th birthday although within the Centre we do not treat any woman over the age of 45 years.

When the eggs are to be used they will be removed from the freezer and thawed and then Intra Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) will be undertaken. This involves taking one single sperm and injecting it directly into the egg. This may be more difficult since the eggs have been frozen.

It is difficult to predict the chances of pregnancy and having a baby as the number of women undergoing egg freezing are few. Not all the eggs will survive the process. The average birth rate for IVF with fresh eggs is about 25% per cycle and it is slightly less for frozen embryos (eggs which have been fertilised and then frozen) at approximately 18%. Most experts think that the live birth rate using frozen eggs is likely to be very low.

This technique is still in its early days, and only a small number of babies have been born worldwide following egg freezing.