Integrating onco-fertility into survivorship care plans

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ABSTRACT

Integrating oncofertility care into survivorship care plans incorporates the informed decision of future fertility, guidance of type of oncofertility option aiming for better family desire following the survivorship era. In Malaysia, current oncofertility options include sperm freezing, oocyte retrieval, and embryo cryopreservation. Since 2020, ovarian tissue cryopreservation services have been offered under experimental treatment through vitrification. To date, most cancer survivors in Malaysia have been given the option of oncofertility as part of their survivorship plan. An integrated network of oncofertility referrals has been established locally to ensure that referrals are made without logistical delays prior to primary cancer treatment. However, awareness of these referrals among clinicians and acceptance of oncofertility treatment among cancer survivors remain low at this early stage of implementation. Therefore, additional strategies should be adopted to encourage greater uptake of oncofertility treatment in Malaysia, aiming to improve reproductive outcomes for cancer survivors.

Keywords: Oncofertility, survival care, fertility preservation, cryopreservation, ovarian tissue cryopreservation