



# FLORIDA INSTITUTE

## FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

***Celebrating 22 Years in Practice***

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**BOARD CERTIFIED REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE SPECIALISTS**

**Over 10,000 Babies Born**

### **Fertility Preservation 2013** — *Dr. Kevin L. Winslow*

Approximately 3-5% of women of reproductive age will develop cancer. Cancer treatments have become increasingly effective with cure rates of up to 60-90%. Unfortunately, as a result of treatment, many women will become subfertile or sterile. For women with a male partner—or those who are willing to use donor sperm—cryopreservation of (pre)embryos has been an efficient and safe option for almost 25 years.

For women without a male partner, egg cryopreservation, recently endorsed by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, is available. The Florida Institute for Reproductive Medicine (FIRM) has some of the most extensive experience in the nation with both (pre)embryo and egg cryopreservation.

To date, we have had more than a thousand babies born from cryopreserved (pre)embryos and 80 babies born from frozen eggs—including the first baby born in the world to a cancer patient. Both cryopreserva-

tion of (pre)embryos and eggs require approximately three weeks to complete. Both technologies involve going through an egg stimulation/retrieval process. Some patients are unable to delay treatment. For such individuals, ovarian tissue cryopreservation may be an option. Ovarian tissue can be removed via an outpatient surgery known as laparoscopy, where tissue is cryopreserved and stored until ready to be transferred back to the patient. Following successful grafting, ovarian tissue will continue to survive—restoring fertility and normal endocrine function. Patients may be able to get pregnant naturally following transplantation or may be recommended to proceed with in vitro fertilization.

To date, approximately 15 babies have been born from this technique worldwide. Thaw and transfer protocols are still being optimized.

Cryopreservation of ovarian tissue has been performed at the Florida Institute for Reproductive Medicine.

Tissue cryopreservation can be extended in theory to testicular tissue for pre-pubertal males who do not produce sperm. Cryopreservation of semen is the accepted method of fertility preservation in pubertal males. The cost for these treatments may or may not be covered by insurance. Costs to cryopreserve (pre)embryos or eggs are similar to those of an IVF cycle.

The Florida Institute for Reproductive Medicine is part of a nationwide organization known as “Fertile Hope” (a group of reproductive medicine programs who provide these services at highly discounted rates). The cost to cryopreserve and store (pre)embryos or eggs at the FIRM is \$5,500-\$6,000. Cost to cryopreserve and store ovarian tissue includes the cost of surgery, hospitalization and anesthesia (approximately \$10,000), plus the cost to cryopreserve and store tissue (5 years is \$3,500). Cost to cryopreserve and store semen is \$425.

Cancer patients usually get just

one chance to preserve their genetic material. When considering fertility preservation, ask how many babies have actually been born from that particular lab.

*For more information regarding fertility preservation at the Florida Institute for Reproductive Medicine, see our website **FIRMJAX.com** or make a consult appointment with one of our reproductive medicine specialists (904) 399-5620.*



**Kevin L. Winslow, M.D.**

*Director of Florida Institute  
for Reproductive Medicine*

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