

# Fertility Preservation for Cancer Patients

Kettering Reproductive Medicine offers oncofertility options

The fast-growing field of oncofertility combines the specialties of oncology, reproductive endocrinology, and assisted reproductive technologies to provide patients undergoing life-saving cancer treatments options to enhance their future reproductive potential. A recent advancement in assisted reproductive technology, called oocyte vitrification, has expanded the fertility preservation options for female oncology patients and has resulted in over 2,000 births worldwide.

Kettering Reproductive Medicine offers fertility preservation services, including vitrification, to patients who will receive chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or other treatments that could negatively impact reproductive health.

Vitrification is a new and improved method of cryopreservation that instantly freezes eggs and prevents ice crystal formation. Because there is no ice crystal formation, there is a decreased risk of damage to the egg cell, and as a result, higher survival and success rates utilizing cryopreserved and thawed oocytes in future in vitro fertilization (IVF) cycles.

Patients wishing to have their oocytes cryopreserved will follow an ovarian stimulation program similar to standard IVF patients and upon completion will go through an oocyte collection procedure to retrieve the oocytes. The oocytes will then undergo vitrification and will be cryo-stored until needed for use in an assisted reproductive technology cycle.

Kettering Reproductive Medicine continues to provide fertility preservation services for male patients who may receive gonadotoxic chemotherapy or radiotherapy for cancer and other diseases. Male patients can enhance their future reproductive potential by cryopreserving semen or surgically retrieved testicular tissue prior to drug therapy and then storing the samples until use in an assisted reproductive treatment.



by  
**Jason St. Pierre, PhD, HCLD**, Kettering  
Reproductive Medicine Laboratory Director



To refer a patient to Kettering Reproductive Medicine or learn more about services offered, call (937) 395-8444.



Kettering Reproductive Medicine (KRM) is the most experienced fertility and reproductive medicine practice in the Greater Dayton area. **Mark Bidwell, MD**, and **Joe Karnitis, MD**, are board certified in obstetrics and gynecology and reproductive endocrinology and work alongside Erin Yontz, MS, CRNP, and Laboratory Director Jason St. Pierre, PhD, HCLD, who is board-certified in reproductive biology. The nursing and laboratory team at KRM have years of practice specific to reproductive medicine and the office is supported by a skilled and responsive staff.