**How are my eggs and ovarian tissue stored?**

After oocytes (eggs) or ovarian tissue are collected the samples are labelled and sent to the laboratory to be assessed for maturity and quality. The samples will need to be processed in different ways:

**Egg collection and cryopreservation (storage)**

During the egg retrieval procedure, embryologists (a scientist that works with sperm, eggs, and embryos) receive test tubes containing liquid removed from the ovaries. The embryologist will examine this fluid under a microscope to identify the eggs. Eggs collected for storage will then be analysed. The mature eggs will be frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored for use at a later time.

**Storage**

You may need to pay yearly fees for the eggs, embryos and ovarian tissue to be stored. These costs will vary depending on the centre so you will need to check these costs with your centre beforehand.

Eggs and ovarian tissue can be stored for many years but the standard storage period is normally 10 years. There is no scientific limit to how long you can store your samples so if your samples need to be frozen for longer, you will be contacted about continuing the storage. The chance of damage to the eggs, embryos and ovarian tissue during the freezing or thawing process is small and we know that the length of time it stays frozen does not alter the success rate for the future assisted reproductive treatment using IVF when you decide to start your family.

It is important that the clinic is able to contact you so please remember to update your contact phone and address details if you move home.

**Where to get further help and information**

For more detailed information please refer to our other fact sheets and the following excellent resources:

* Other fact sheets from the Future Fertility website [www.futurefertility.com.au](http://www.futurefertility.com.au) or www.futurefertility.com.nz.
* Fertility and cancer: A guide for people with cancer, their friends and family. Booklet produced by Cancer Council Australia 2014.
* Fertile Hope [www.fertilehope.org](http://www.fertilehope.org)
* Fertility Society of Australia (<http://www.fertilitysociety.com.au/>)

You may also like to call a Cancer Helpline service:

* Australia 13 11 20
* New Zealand call 0800 **226 237**

**Both these help lines will allow you to** speak with an experienced cancer nurse.