

# Freezing and preservation of egg cells for 6 months (from the day of freezing)

Freezing and preservation of gametes – possible to perform before treatment in case of medical indications which may damage fertility (e.g. the treatment of a malignant tumour) or in case the patient wishes to postpone pregnancy to a later stage of life. Radiation and chemotherapy are extremely dangerous for egg cells and may cause permanent infertility. Freezing eggs helps young women to give birth to their own children in the future. Pregnancy is not guaranteed – the likelihood depends on the number and quality of egg cells.

Freezing egg cells is preceded by **hormonal stimulation of the ovaries** – the ovaries are stimulated with injected hormonal medication to produce more egg cells than during the regular menstrual cycle – so-called superovulation. The preparation process lasts about 2 weeks, during this time you will visit the gynaecologist 2–3 times to check the effectiveness of the treatment.

**Egg cell puncture** – the egg cells are extracted from the ovary.

The procedure is usually performed under anaesthesia. The doctor punctures the vaginal wall under ultrasound and aspirates all follicles grown in the ovaries. Puncture lasts 1–2 hours, including waking from anaesthesia. Then the egg cells are frozen by the method of vitrification (rapid freezing).

It is recommended that eggs be frozen before the age of 35.

At our centre, it is possible to freeze **gametes** for a period of 12 years.

- An opportunity for patients (both men and women) who are facing aggressive chemotherapy or radiation in case of malignant tumours.
- Women who wish to postpone pregnancy to a time in which the production of egg cells is likely to have decreased.
- Distance relationships – the timing of the women's procedure does not depend on the physical presence of her partner.

The fertilisation of eggs is necessary with an ICSI method.