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Current status of fertility preservation therapy for young cancer patients at our clinic

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Objectives: Our clinic has been making concerted efforts to preserve the fertility of young cancer patients. Here, we report the current status of fertility preservation therapy at our clinic.

Methods: Subjects were 68 female cancer patients, mean age 34.1 years, who consulted to our clinic for fertility preservation between April 2013 and July 2016. The patients included 44 patients with breast cancer, 19 with hematopoietic malignancies, and 5 with other cancers. Of the 68 patients, 64 patients who had provided consent were enrolled in this study, and their cases were examined retrospectively.

Results: At initial examination, 5 of 10 patients who had already completed chemotherapy were diagnosed with chemotherapy-related amenorrhea (CRA), resulting in their exclusion. The remaining 59 patients underwent fertility preservation therapy, and oocytes were collected 1.37 times per patient. Ovarian stimulation was performed for 6.68 days on average. The mean number of frozen oocytes and frozen embryos was 3.7 and 2.4 respectively. Mean peak estradiol level was 337.56 pg/ml but was 156.06 pg/ml in patients with breast cancer. Embryo transfer was performed a total of 9 cycles in 3 patients. One of the patients became pregnant, but miscarriage occurred in the 9th week.

Conclusion: All the patients underwent assisted reproductive technology with no delay in cancer therapy. However, some patients hoping to become pregnant were unable to undergo fertility preservation therapy because of CRA. Thus, it is necessary to undertake collaborative efforts with other clinical departments and to educate the public about fertility preservation therapy.