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The preservation of fertility in patients with malignant disease; a case report

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Recently the number of young cancer survivor is increasing due to improvement of cancer treatment. After conquering their life-threatening disease, many patients have to face their impaired fertility in future. We successfully preserved oocytes of a woman with malignant disease before her intensive cancer treatment.

Case report

A 34-year-old unmarried woman with a diagnosis of myelodysplastic syndrome visited our fertility clinic. She was scheduled to have chemotherapy and radiotherapy as a pretreatment of bone-marrow transplantation few weeks later. She was quickly able to make her mind to accept oocytes freezing as fertility preservation after careful consideration of provided information from cancer experts and gynecologists. The oocytes retrieval was performed without complications one day after platelet transfusion. Six mature oocytes were successfully preserved.

Discussion

This is the first cryopreservation of oocytes for women with malignant disease at our fertility clinic. Since then we have been trying to come up with more patients-friendly system in cooperation with cancer specialists. The cancer patients have to decide if they would have ART related treatment in a limited time while they are struggling against their serious illness. So we compiled a brochure on fertility preservation to help patients and medical personnel in other specialty understand easily. We believe close cooperation between cancer experts and ART experts is necessary to establish fertility preservation procedure. More than 20 women with malignancy successfully went through oocyte retrieval procedure and secured their oocytes at our clinic.