

Survey of Attitudes Regarding Oocyte Cryopreservation in Undergraduate and Medical Students

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Background/Synopsis: Elective oocyte cryopreservation is increasing in popularity among young women. However, the literature shows that knowledge varies widely.

Objective/Purpose: To assess knowledge and attitudes regarding elective oocyte cryopreservation in undergraduate students and medical students.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional study anonymously surveying undergraduates at a university and medical students at an academic medical center.

Results: 169 female students chose to complete the survey, 74 undergraduates and 95 medical students. With regard to age, 41% of undergraduates favored the age of 26-30 to consider oocyte cryopreservation, whereas 44% of medical students favored the older age of 31-35 ($p=0.028$). However, 53% of undergraduates believed age 45-50 was too old to have a child, whereas 48% of medical students believed the younger bracket of age 40-45 was too old ($p=0.002$). A significant majority of participants, 74%, reported they would be more likely to freeze eggs if their employer or insurance paid for freezing. Of note, participants underestimated the number of oocytes that must be frozen at age 40 for a live birth. Only 26% (43/168) of participants correctly estimated that 40+ oocytes were required.

Conclusion: Although there was some need for further education, the majority of students had a general interest in freezing oocytes at a reduced cost.