Welcome to the first issue of the National Physicians Cooperative’s quarterly newsletter! The newsletter contains the latest updates and developments about the NPC and our active protocols. Please contact us if you have any specific topics that you would like discussed in the upcoming issues of the newsletter.

NPC Updates:

Enrolling Your First OTC Patient
Once you have received IRB approval for ovarian tissue cryopreservation, you are ready to enroll your first patient. Upon identification of an eligible participant, please notify the NPC team and we will walk you through all of the paperwork and laboratory tests that need to be completed. We will also send a member of the NPC advisory group to be on-site to assist you with your first patient. Based on your location, one of the following individuals will be in attendance:

- Kristin Smith (Northwestern)
- Sarah Kiesewetter (Northwestern)
- Irene Su (University of California, San Diego)
- Clarissa Gracia (University of Pennsylvania)
- Jared Robins (Brown University)
- Jenny Mersereau (University of North Carolina)
- Steve Nakajima (University of Louisville)
- Lennie Sender (Children’s Hosp of Orange Cty)

New NPC Members:
We are pleased to announce the following sites that have initiated the NPC membership process and are on their way to establishing their own comprehensive fertility preservation program:

- Henry Ford Health Systems (Southeastern Michigan)
- Center for Reproductive Health (Nashville, TN)
- Dallas IVF (Collin and Dallas Counties, TX)
- Rocky Mountain Fertility Center (Parker, CO and Rapid City, SD)
- Cook Children’s Medical Center (Fort Worth, TX)
- University of Washington (Seattle, WA)

Please continue to send us information on your clinical site to include on the NPC map and notify us of other sites who may be interested in joining the NPC.

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CASE STUDY

Scaffold Recruitment

The Patient Navigator at Northwestern, Kristin Smith, was contacted by a member of an advocacy group that works to enlighten and empower high-risk individuals to take control of their breast and ovarian health. This advocacy group member is a 36 year old, BRCA+ patient undergoing an elective BSO and wanted to give back to science. She participated in our SCAFFOLD protocol which allows Northwestern to collect ovaries off-site from centers whose patients are having their ovaries removed for a medical indication or who already have frozen ovarian tissue in storage and no longer need it for their own use. Patients must be between 18 and 52 years of age to participate in this study. Even though this patient lived in another state and was at a center that is not part of the NPC, we were able to work with the pathology and surgical departments at her local hospital to enable her to contribute her ovarian tissue to research. If you have patients who would be interested in participating in this study or stored tissue that you can contribute, please contact Kristin at (312) 503-3378.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Q: How much holding and freezing media should our site order?

A: Tissue contributed to research was initially frozen per the protocol guidelines, which requires 2 vials of holding media. Recently, we have been collecting fresh ovarian tissue for research; for fresh research tissue, we recommend 3 vials of holding media. The amount of freezing media used for both cases has not changed.

Here’s the holding and freezing media breakdown again:
- **Fresh** research tissue: 3 vials of holding media.
- **Frozen** research tissue: 2 vials of holding media.
- The amount of freezing media used for both cases has not changed.

It is considered good practice to have enough holding and freezing media for at least one patient. Most media will not expire for one year and having this at your disposal will ensure less wait time when you enroll a patient.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

University of Southern California (USC)

The Fertility Preservation Program of USC led by Karine Chung, MD, MSCE recruited their first ovarian tissue cryopreservation participant in September. This subject is a 31 year old, para 2 patient with acute myeloid leukemia. At the time of her initial fertility preservation consultation, the patient and her husband expressed interest in the OTC protocol that was IRB-approved at USC. During the 7 days between the consultation and laparoscopic unilateral oophorectomy, Dr. Chung and the NPC clinical advisory team worked together through phone calls and emails to review their institutional protocol, relevant case report forms from the NPC Users Manual, ReproTech agreement for the subject, media ordering from Sage, infectious disease testing with Memorial Blood Centers (MBC), and surgery billing information. On the day of surgery, a member of the NPC clinical advisory team traveled to Los Angeles to help the USC team with ovarian tissue dissection and preparation. The 20% of tissue for research was sent fresh to Northwestern the same afternoon via FedEx. This case went well primarily because of the USC teams’ longstanding efforts, including active protocols and registrations.

CONTACT US

If you have questions about the National Physicians Cooperative or would like more information, please contact Jeff Chang, MD, rjchang@ucsd.edu, Irene Su, MD, hisu@ucsd.edu or Annette Haggan, RN, aramoshaggan@ucsd.edu.

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