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Global Health Day

Prospects and Potential for Expanding Women's Oncofertility Options

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Cancer is a global disease that is expanding across socioeconomic statuses in both high-income countries (HICs) and low-middle income countries (LMICs). Oncofertility has become an interdisciplinary field that aims to connect reproductive endocrinology and oncology in order to assess the efficacy of reproduction in cancer patients. Various treatments, such as chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation, have raised survival rates for cancer patients. Unfortunately, women are often subject to an increased risk of infertility among reproductive-aged patients post-treatment.

While oncofertility interventions and treatments are continuing to be developed for female cancer patients, barriers exist to the implementation of these practices worldwide. These impediments include financial burdens, cultural and religious norms, and a lack of education in both males and females within various regions of different countries. Oncofertility interventions have also been introduced to lower and middle-income countries, although health care services are sometimes inadequate in those areas. This poster will focus on the importance of improving awareness of medical care and fertility options, such as the preservation of ovarian follicles, for female cancer patients before treatments are administered. In addition, the implementation of oncofertility interventions in medical institutions will be analyzed across various countries. The general increase in medical practices adopting oncofertility interventions has been accompanied with the expansion of international organizations, such as the Oncofertility Consortium Global Partners Network (OCGPN) and the Oncofertility Professional Engagement Network (OPEN).

Bridges continue to be formed between networks where resources, methods, and experiences are shared as oncofertility interventions become standard practices worldwide. Greater awareness in management services provided to patients prior to treatment allows patients to make informed decisions upon treatment. In this way, cancer patients will be able to enhance future fertility prospects and be aware of fertility options before and after treatment is administered.

This research was presented as part of Northwestern University Institute for Global Health's Annual Global Health Day on Friday, December 4th, 2020.