Practice 3

Appropriate to consider and discuss fertility and family planning with premenopausal women before they undergo breast cancer treatment.

Context

A substantial proportion of women in Australia are diagnosed with breast cancer prior to menopause. In 2016, it is estimated that there will be 5,035 new cases (32%) of breast cancer in women aged 20-54 years.

Some treatments for breast cancer, including chemotherapy and hormone therapy, may induce premature menopause and lead to impaired fertility. This can impact on a woman's chance of having children in the future.

Value to patients

Before the commencement of treatment, it is important to discuss the potential impacts on fertility, as well as the options for preserving fertility to increase the likelihood of future childbearing. This will provide women with an opportunity to consider their fertility preservation options as part of their breast cancer treatment considerations.

Supporting evidence


Source URL: https://thestatement.canceraustralia.gov.au/the-practices/practice-3

Links