

THE CENTER FOR HUMAN REPRODUCTION

The Institute for Fertility Preservation

21 East 69TH Street, New York, N.Y. 10021 – Tel: 212.994 4400 – Fax: 212.994 4499

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CONTACT: Mark Dixon (312-876-1505)

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Kutluk Oktay, MD is engaged in a study that promises to bring significant advances in our understanding of how cancer treatments affect fertility and may result in the development of innovative noninvasive medical treatments to preserve fertility.

Thanks to a prestigious grant from the National Institute of Health (NIH), **Kutluk Oktay, MD**, Medical Director of the **Institute for Fertility Preservation**, a division of the **Center for Human Reproduction**, and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Director, Division of Reproductive Medicine and Infertility, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, New York Medical College, is engaged in a five-year study devoted to the characterization and prevention of chemotherapy-induced damage to ovarian reserve.

Study Aims & Description: Chemotherapy-induced ovarian failure is a growing public health problem with a major impact on quality of life. If the individual toxicity of chemotherapy agents is known, patients can be counseled about the likelihood of ovarian damage and the need for fertility preservation. Moreover, if pharmacological ovarian protection strategies are developed, there will be no need for surgical interventions to preserve fertility, thus reducing concomitant risks and costs. Dr. Oktay stated, “The long term goal of this project is to improve our understanding of the risks of chemotherapy-induced ovarian failure by developing more accurate ovarian reserve assessment strategies, in addition to testing the effectiveness of pharmacological approaches to prevent chemotherapy-induced damage to ovarian reserve in experimental models.”

The study focuses on breast cancer, which is the most common malignancy in young women. In fact, **breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer in women of reproductive age**. The study will follow women ages 18 through 45 for up to five years after breast cancer diagnosis to determine the impact of commonly used breast cancer chemotherapy regimens on ovarian reserve using existing and emerging markers of the follicle population. Furthermore, in laboratory studies pharmacological mechanisms of ovarian protection will be tested from ovarian tissue biopsies obtained from cancer patients. The goal of the laboratory study is to develop medical treatments that can preserve fertility without having to resort to surgical freezing techniques.

Dr. Oktay is available for further comment. The Center for Human Reproduction is a leading clinical and research center in reproductive medicine and infertility located in NYC.