

A bundle of joy for cancer patients

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TUMOUR AS HEAVY AS TRIPLETS!

Bangalore: A 33-year-old woman was on Wednesday operated upon to remove an ovarian tumour weighing 10 kg at Cradle Hospital. About 18 months ago, she had delivered a baby boy at the same hospital. Following the delivery, she put on a lot of weight and even tried a weight-loss programme, in vain.

Senior Obstetrician and gynaecologist Dr Prakash Kini, who diagnosed the tumour, said: "This is more than a baby's weight, it is almost like triplets." TNN

external medium before cancer treatment is started. Besides, sperms and embryos can also be preserved and re-implanted after chemotherapy.

"People diagnosed with cancer should visit the doctor before the chemotherapy commences. Otherwise, it will become difficult to extract and store eggs or sperms. We have at least two to three women patients who visit us for help after starting chemotherapy. But at

that stage, we are not in a position to help them," Dr Kamini Rao explained.

She added that embryos and ovaries can be re-implanted six months after chemotherapy sessions are completed. The eggs, sperms, ovaries and embryos can be stored for a period of at least five years, depending on their quality, she said.

Though freezing of sperms and embryos for the purpose of preserving fertility is well

known, the preservation of unfertilized eggs (called oocyte cryopreservation) is a highly advanced and skilled freezing technology. Already 10 cancer patients from the state have frozen their sperms.

Through this technology, cancer patients can ensure their reproductive lives are protected, and women can still have an opportunity to bear children after treatment. "The success rate of this technology over the last few years in foreign countries proves that this technology can be used to facilitate pregnancy in women treated for cancer. This technology can also be used by women who wish to put off the prospect of having children at 40 years of age," Dr Kamini said.

She added that this was a new trend and no one in the state had opted for it as yet.

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Bangalore: Chemotherapy will not harm your fertility anymore. For those in the reproductive age, here is a technology to help retain fertility.

"There are various types and dosages of chemotherapy drugs that could damage eggs in the ovaries. Also, high energy radiation treatments to kill cancer cells in the abdomen, pelvic region, brain and surrounding regions, bone marrow or stem cell transplants, surgery of certain parts of the reproductive system, and certain hormone therapies can cause infertility," said Dr Kamini Rao, medical director, Bangalore Assisted Conception Centre.

In order to help such patients, reproductive medicine offers the technology to preserve good quality unfertilized eggs in an