

Fertility preservation for young people with cancer: State of the art.

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Fertility preservation options: established and experimental



Panel 1: Intrinsic and extrinsic factors for fertility preservation strategies in children and young adults⁹

Intrinsic factors

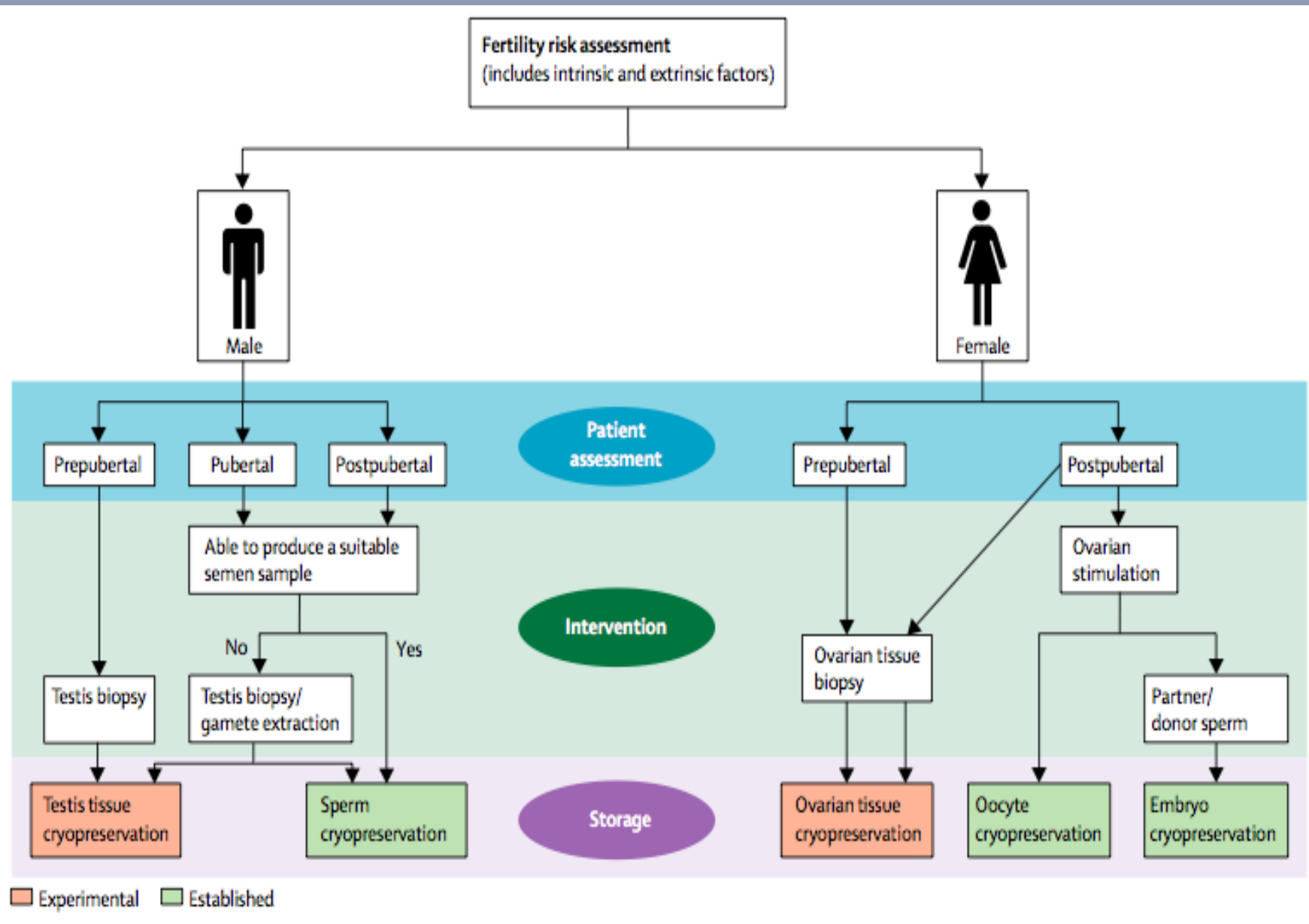
- Health status of patient
- Psychosocial factors
- Consent (patient or parent)
- Assessment of pubertal status
- Assessment of ovarian reserve (female patients)

Extrinsic factors

- Risk of predicted treatment (high, medium, low, or uncertain risk)
- Time available
- Expertise and technical options available

Risk of infertility

| Low risk (<20%) | Medium risk | High risk (>80%) |
|--|--|---|
| <p>ALL</p> <p>Wilms' tumour</p> <p>Brain tumour</p> <p>Sx, RT < 24Gy</p> <p>Soft tissue sarcoma (stage1)</p> <p>Hodgkin's Lymphoma</p> <p>HL(Low stage)</p> | <p>AML</p> <p>Osteosarcoma</p> <p>Ewing's sarcoma</p> <p>STS: stage II/III</p> <p>Neuroblastoma</p> <p>NHL</p> <p>Brain tumour</p> <p>RT>24Gy</p> <p>HL (High Stage)</p> | <p>Total Body Irradiation</p> <p>Pelvic/testes RT</p> <p>Chemo pre BMT</p> <p>Metastatic Ewing's</p> <p>HL (Pelvic RT)</p> |



Anderson RA...Wallace WH. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol. 2015

Key features of the 3 options for fertility preservation for women

Embryo cryopreservation

- ▮ Established but require time and a partner

Oocyte cryopreservation

- ▮ Established but require time and hormone stimulation (success rate per oocyte low)

Ovarian tissue cryopreservation

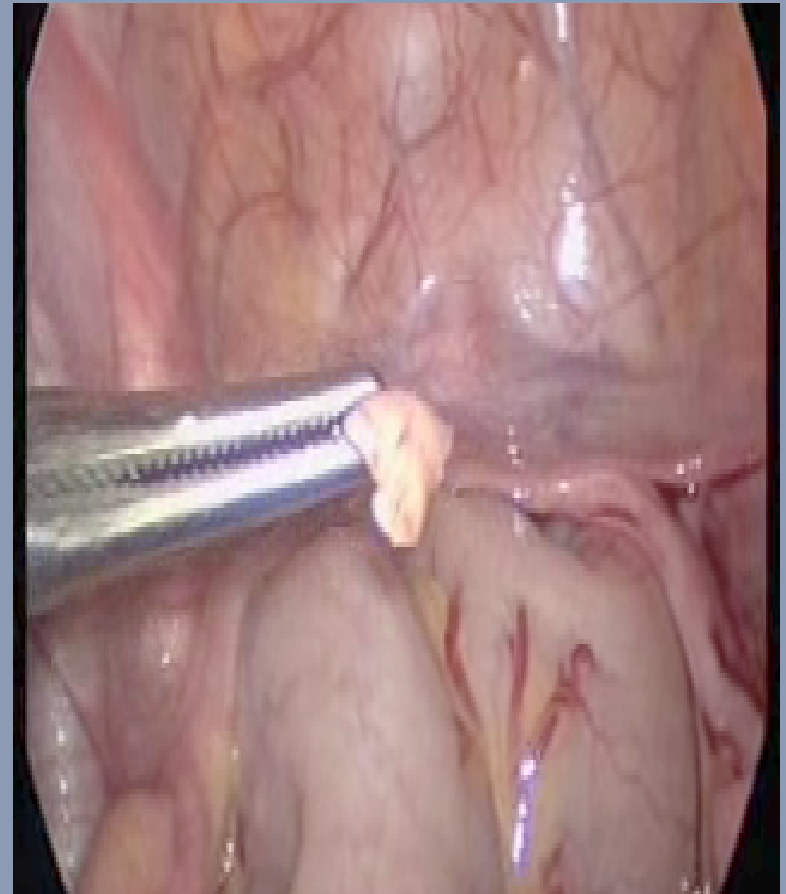
- ▮ Minimal delay
- ▮ No lower age limit
- ▮ Surgical procedure
- ▮ Allows for future developments

Ovarian tissue cryopreservation: World-wide experience

At least 60 pregnancies
worldwide after orthotopic
reimplantation of frozen-
thawed ovarian cortex
Success rate is unclear
as the denominator is
unknown

No pregnancies reported
following the
reimplantation of ovarian
tissue harvested pre-
pubertally

Young children are
potentially ideal
candidates



Donnez, J. & Dolmans, M.-M. *Nat. Rev. Endocrinol.* 9, 735–749 (2013)

Cryopreservation: European experience

Three centres (Denmark, Spain and Belgium)

60 cases of orthotopic reimplantation.

Of these women, 11 (21%) became pregnant

Six have delivered 12 healthy babies.

Restoration of ovarian activity was observed in 93% of the patients between 3.5 months and 6.5 months after grafting

The mean duration of ovarian function after trans-plantation is ~4–5 years but can persist for up to 7 years.

Donnez, J. et al. Fertil. Steril. 99, 1503–1513 (2013).

Outcomes of transplantations of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to 41 women in Denmark

41 women who had thawed ovarian tissue transplanted 53 times over a period of 10 years

Majority had breast cancer or lymphoma, all <39 years at ovarian tissue cryopreservation

Among 32 women with a pregnancy-wish, 10(31%) had a child/children

The transplanted ovarian tissue can last up to 10 year

Three relapses occurred (2 Breast Ca, 1 Ewings)

Transplantation of Ovarian Tissue - The Israeli experience

N= 20 cancer survivors

Ovarian Tissue harvested 14-39 years

N=15 haematological malignancies

N=10 exposed to pre-harvest chemotherapy

93% reported endocrine recovery

N=16 pregnancies(10: IVF, 6 spontaneous)

32% had at least one live birth and 53% had a pregnancy

No cancer relapses

Safe and no longer experimental!

Children born from transplantation of frozen/thawed ovarian tissue

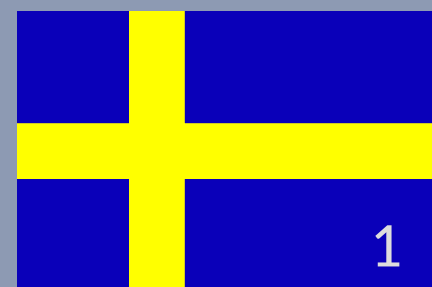
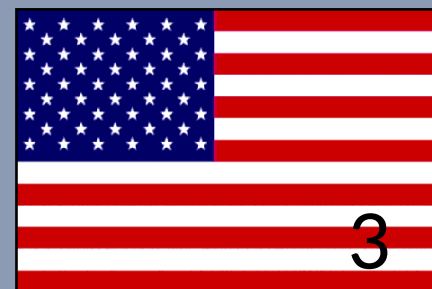


All Normal Babies
weight and duration
Orthotopic >> heterotopic



All except for one is a result of a
slow-freezing protocol

An estimated excess of 150
transplantations have been performed



Induction of puberty by autograft of cryopreserved ovarian tissue

10 year old with Sickle cell disease 2003
before HSCT Rt Oophorectomy and
cryopreservation

Aged 13 , developed POI, and requested
return for pubertal induction

B2, 4 months; Menstruation, 8 months

Regular menstruation for two years post
graft, Normal breast development

This case shows the first restoration of
endocrine ovarian function from tissue
harvested before puberty.

Poirot et al.Lancet, 2012

Induction of puberty by autograft of cryopreserved ovarian tissue

9 year old with Ewing, intensively treated with CT and RT

OTC before treatment commenced

Developed POI . No pubertal development. In remission

4.5 years later (13.5years) ovarian tissue returned for pubertal induction. Tanner B4 and menstruation within one year.

Graft ceased to function after 19 months

Several years later she relapsed and died from recurrent Ewing sarcoma

No evidence of EWS FLI1 in remaining stored ovarian tissue.

Ernst et al EJC, 2013

Induction of puberty by autograft of cryopreserved ovarian tissue

Induction of puberty with exogenous steroid hormones either orally or trans-dermally is well established

The re-implantation of ovarian tissue in a hypergonadotrophic environment not ideal

Potential waste of a finite number of germ cells

Risk of relapse ..particularly in haematological malignancies

Live birth after autograft of ovarian tissue cryopreserved during childhood

Sickle cell disease Aged 5 from Rep of Congo

Onset of puberty Aged 10, No menstruation

BU/CY HSCT from matched sibling for severe disease

Lap collection of whole ovary Aged 13 and 11 months, October 2000 before HSCT

Developed POI, started on HRT aged 15

Aged 25 ovarian tissue replaced. After five months menstruation, continued for two years. Assisted conception due to male factor. No pregnancy

Aged 27 spontaneous conception with new partner. Healthy male 3.14 Kg.

Ovarian Cryopreservation & Ovarian Function

Edinburgh experience in
children (< 18 yrs) 1996-2012

Panel 2: The Edinburgh Selection Criteria for gonadal tissue cryopreservation

These criteria were established with ethics committee review and approval because they refer to experimental procedures, and should be regarded as a starting point for future discussion, research, and refinement.

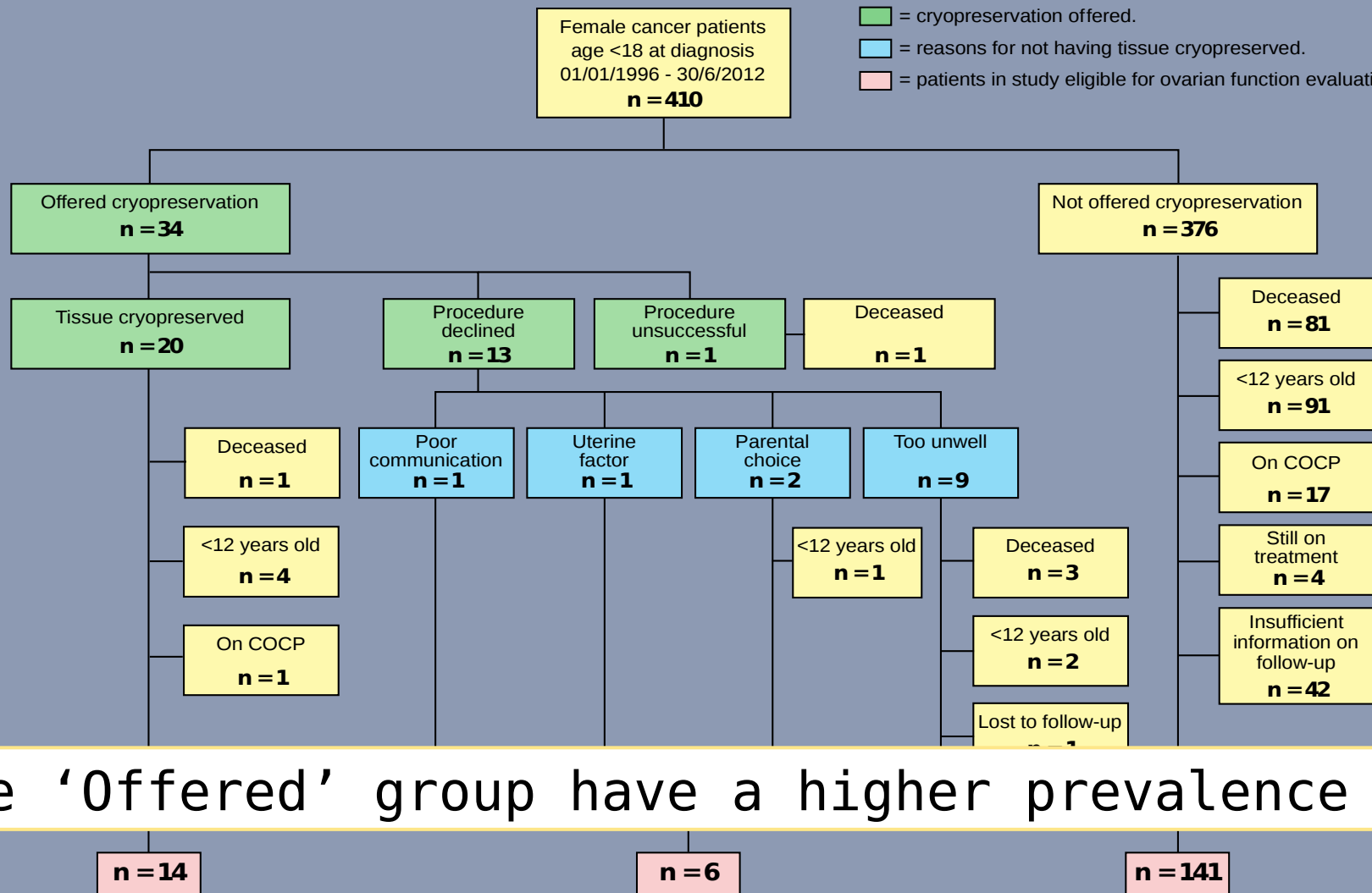
Female patients¹¹²

- Age younger than 35 years
- No previous chemotherapy or radiotherapy if aged 15 years or older at diagnosis, but mild, non-gonadotoxic chemotherapy is acceptable if younger than 15 years
- A realistic chance of 5-year survival
- A high risk of premature ovarian insufficiency (>50%)
- Informed consent (parent and, when possible, patient)
- Negative HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis serology
- Not pregnant and no existing children

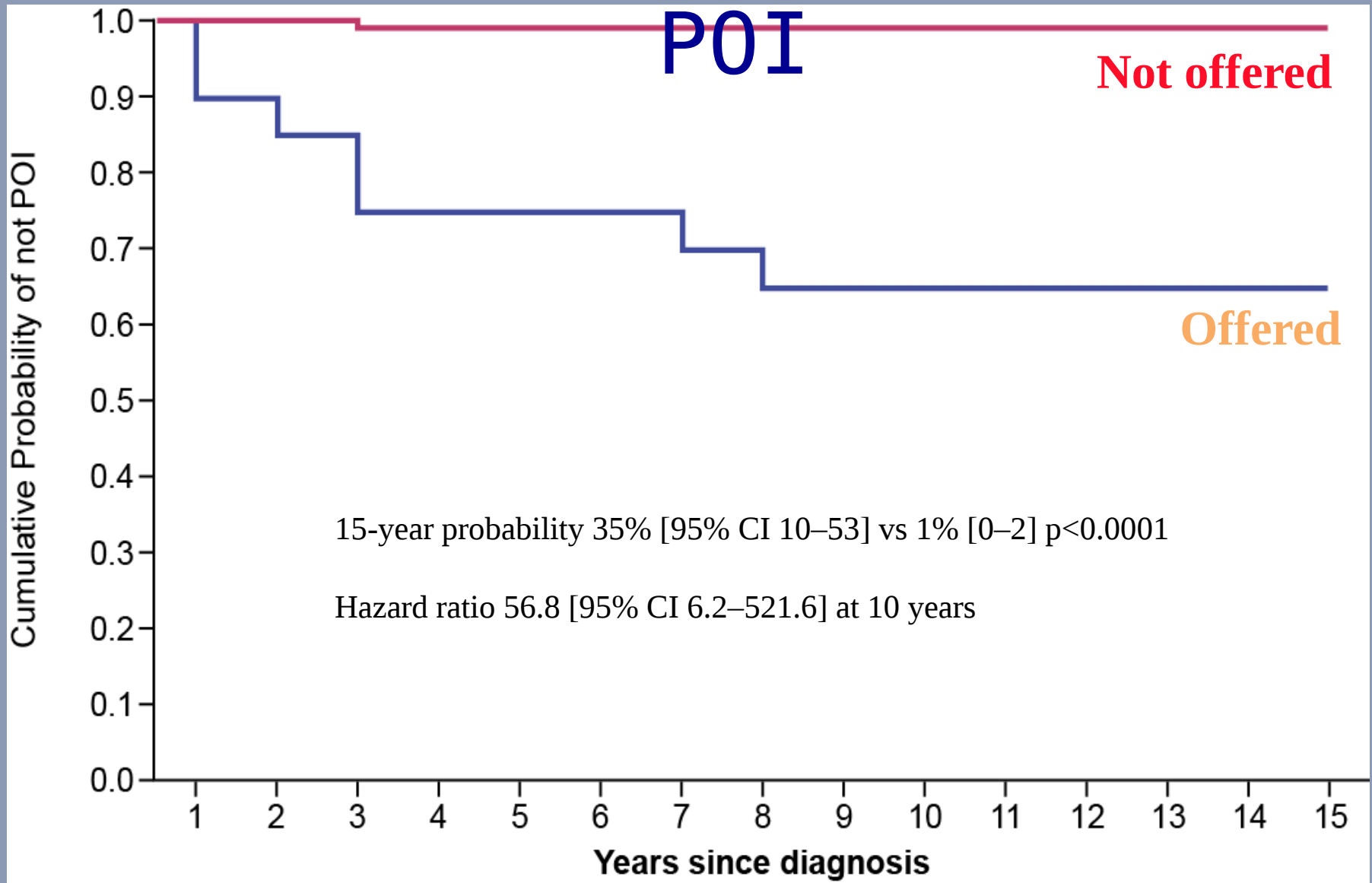
Male patients

- Age 0–16 years
- A high risk of infertility (>80%)
- Unable to produce a semen sample by masturbation
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15 year, population-based analysis of criteria for ovarian cryopreservation



Cumulative incidence of



Conclusion

Ovarian cryopreservation was offered to 9% of our patients, and performed in 5%

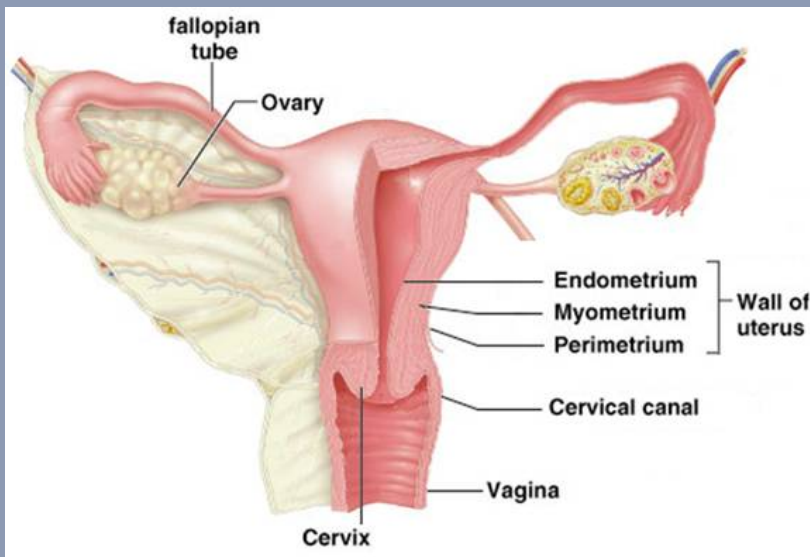
The procedure was safe and without complications

No patients have asked for re-implantation of their tissue – to date

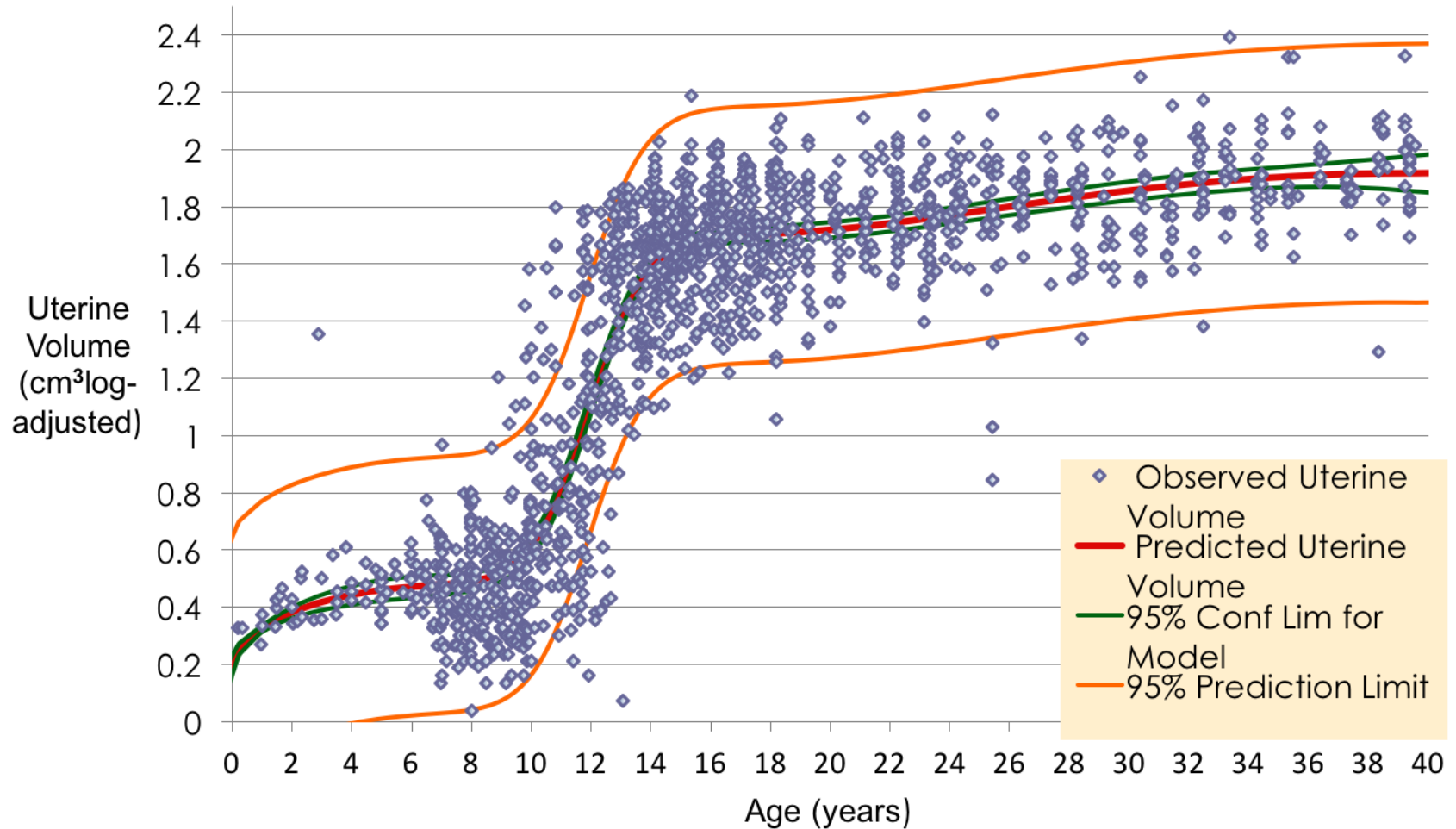
All patients who have thus far developed premature ovarian insufficiency were identified except one patient

The Edinburgh Selection Criteria have proved to be helpful in selecting those patients at highest risk of POI

The Uterus

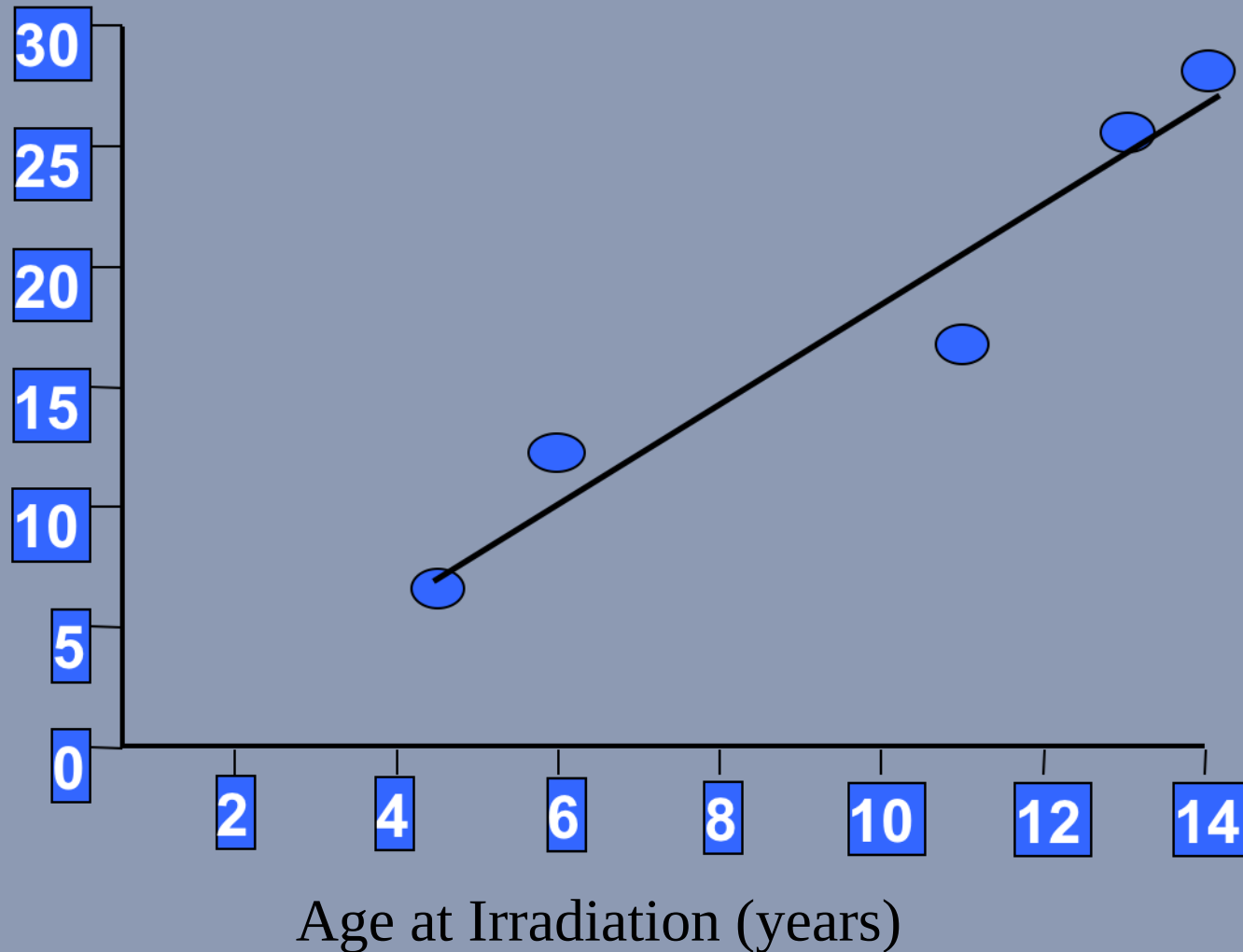


Normative model for uterine volume from birth to 40 years. The r^2 is 0.859.



Kelsey et al. unpublished

Uterine volume and age at irradiation (TBI)



Bath et al. BJOG (1999)

Uterine function after cancer treatment

No reports of uterine damage due to chemotherapy

Radiotherapy:

Uterine damage, manifest by impaired growth and blood flow.

Uterine volume correlates with age at irradiation.

Exposure of the pelvis to radiation is associated with an increased risk of miscarriage, mid-trimester pregnancy loss, PPH, pre-term birth and low birth weight.

2016

Ovarian tissue cryopreservation

Established or Experimental?

For pubertal induction...experimental

For fertility preservation in
children...experimental

For fertility preservation in adult
women...?

Fertility Preservation ASCO Guidelines (2006) and update (2013): General

Discuss fertility preservation with **all** patients of reproductive age (and with parents or guardians of children and adolescents) if infertility is a potential risk of therapy

Refer patients who express an interest in fertility preservation to reproductive specialists

Address fertility preservation as early as possible, before treatment starts

Document fertility preservation discussions in the medical record

Encourage patients to participate in registries and clinical studies

Lee et al. JCO 2006

Loren et al. JCO 2013

Fertility Preservation ASCO Guidelines update (2013) (Females)

Embryo (2006) and oocyte cryopreservation (2013) should be considered as **established** fertility preservation methods

There is insufficient evidence of the effectiveness of ovarian suppression (gonadotropin-releasing hormone analogs) as a fertility preservation method

Other methods (e.g., ovarian tissue cryopreservation) are still **experimental**

Lee et al. JCO 2006

Loren et al. JCO 2013

Acknowledgements



Richard Anderson

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Louise Bath

Chris Kelnar

Angela Edgar

Mark Brougham

Fraser Munro



Edinburgh Fertility Preservation



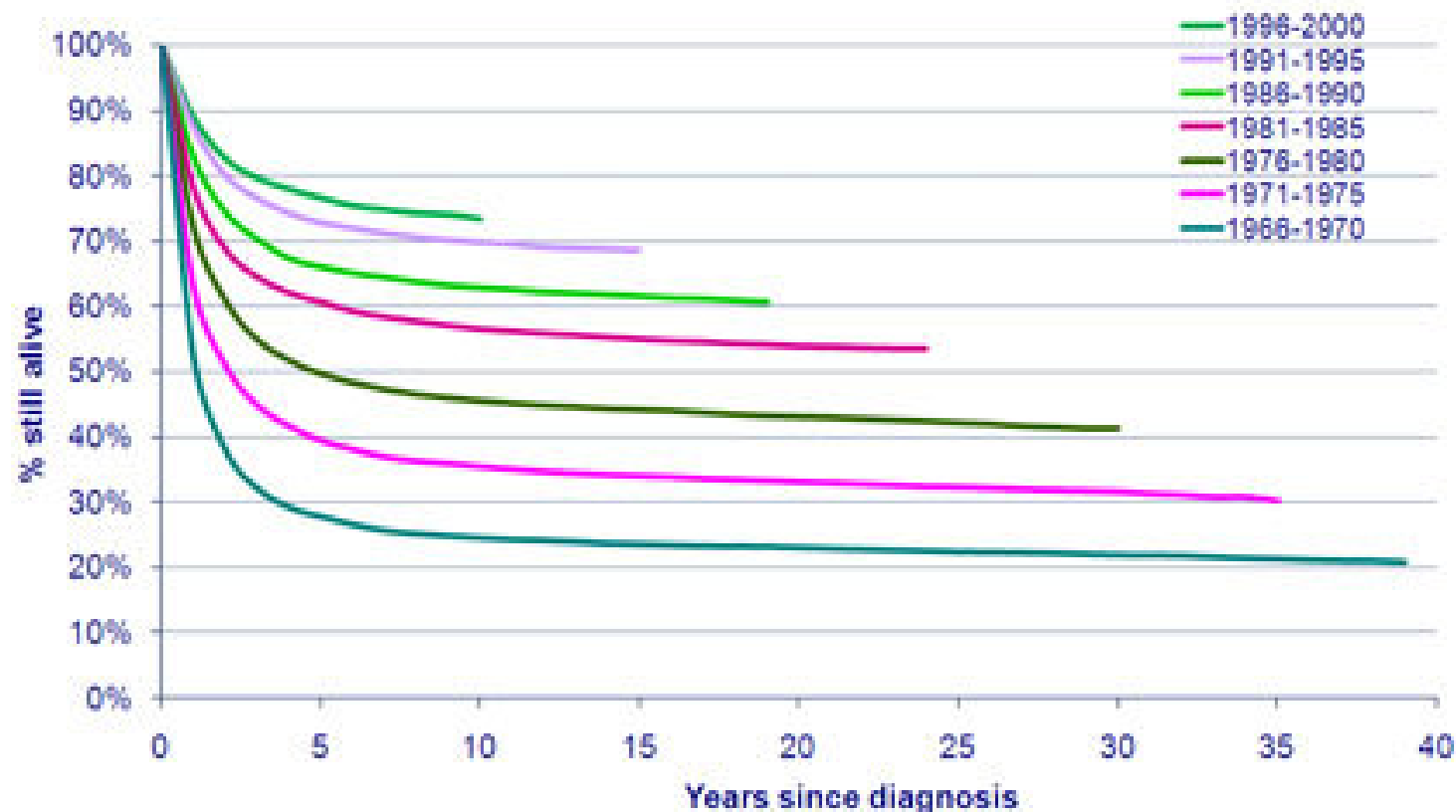
www.ed.ac.uk/Edinburgh-fertility-preservation



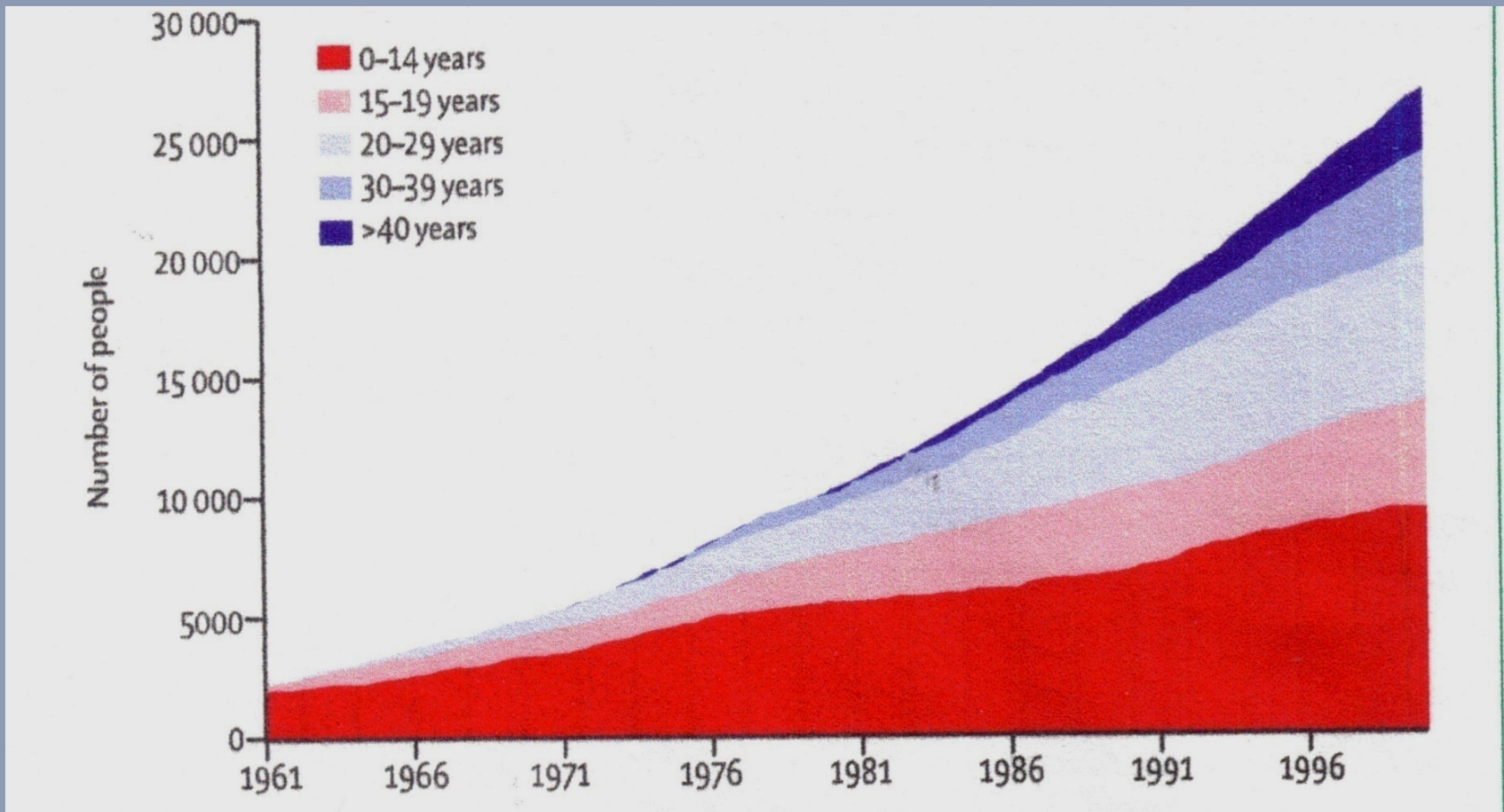
@edinfertility

Improved Five Year Survival (1966-2000)

Figure 3.1: Survival of childhood cancer patients diagnosed 1966-2000, by period of diagnosis



Increasing numbers of five year UK survivors by current age



Skinner, Wallace & Levitt , Lancet Oncology, 2000

A Patient

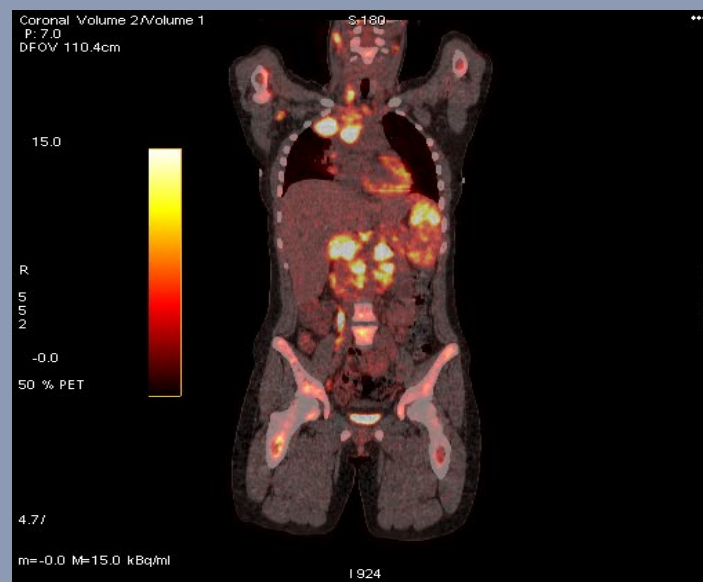
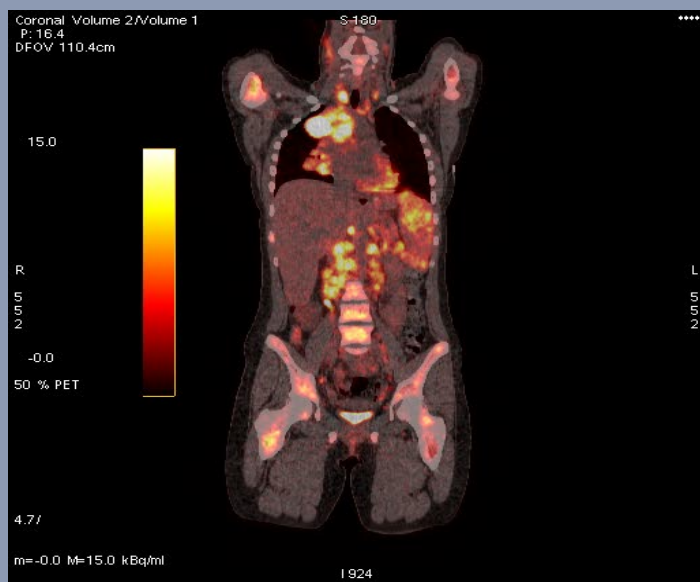
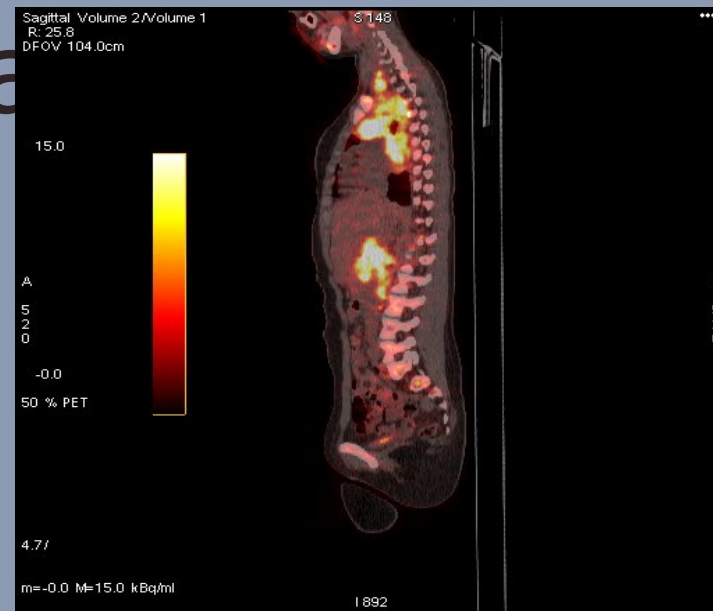
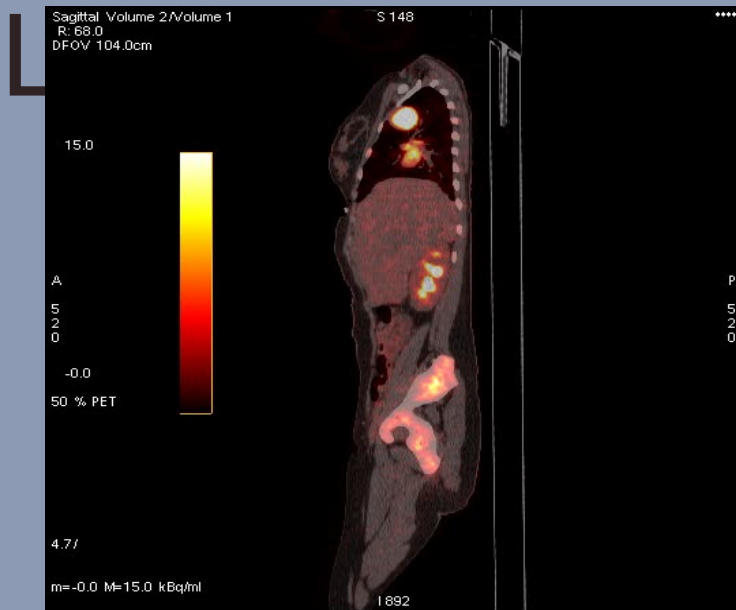


March 2011 (age 15 years)

Six month H/O of intense pruritis of her feet

Three month H/O fever, night sweats, lethargy, pallor, poor appetite and weight loss

Widespread LN – lower cervical, mediastinum, abdomen



Diagnosis and Staging

Mediastinal lymph node biopsy

- Hodgkin's lymphoma

Insertion of double lumen
portacath

Laparoscopic ovarian biopsy and
cryopreservation of ovarian
cortical strips



Laura



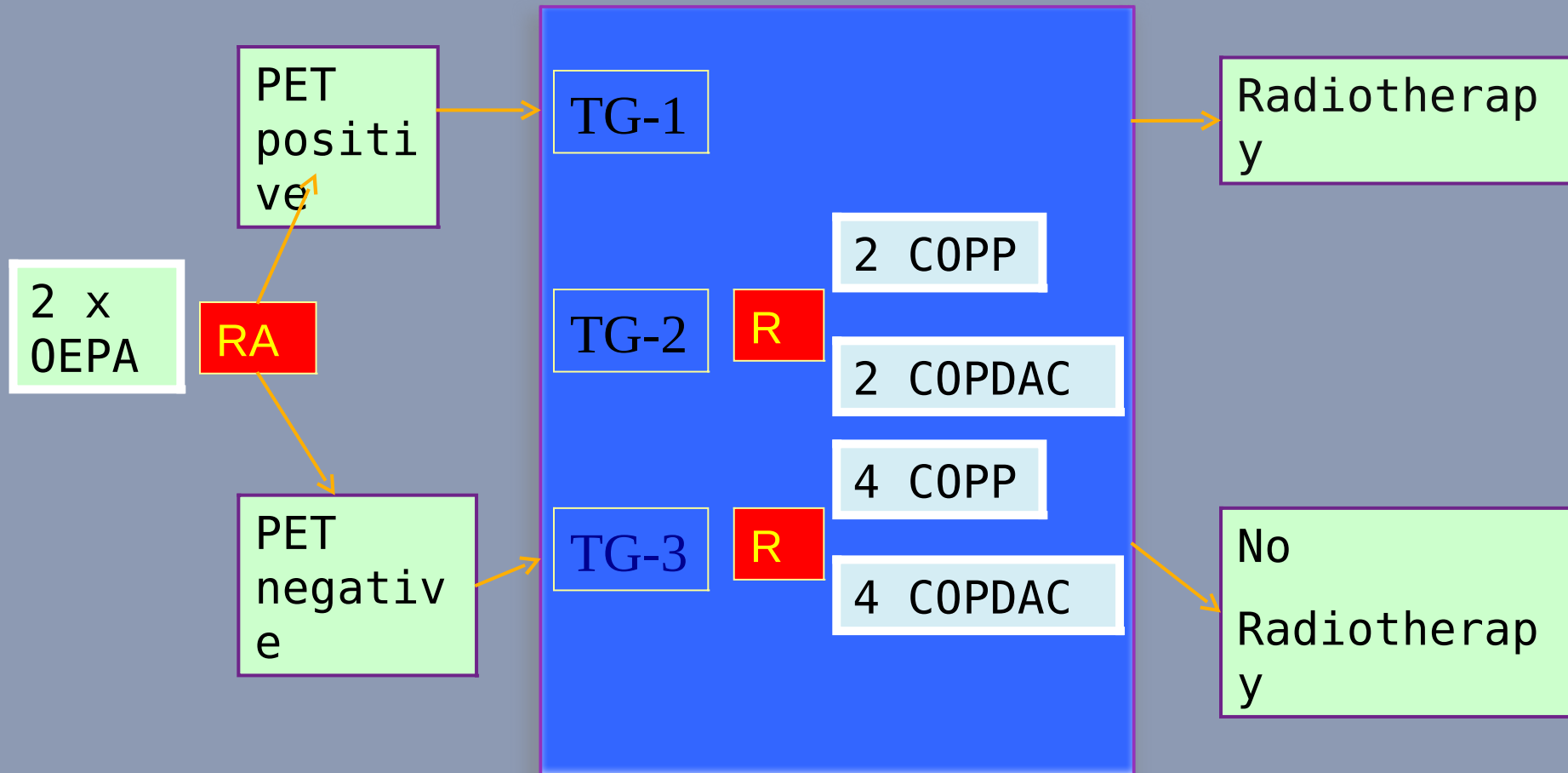
EuroNet-PHL-C1
Protocol:

Treatment Group 3
(TG3)

Two cycles of OEPA

Four cycles of
COPDAC or COPP

EuroNet - PHL - C - 1



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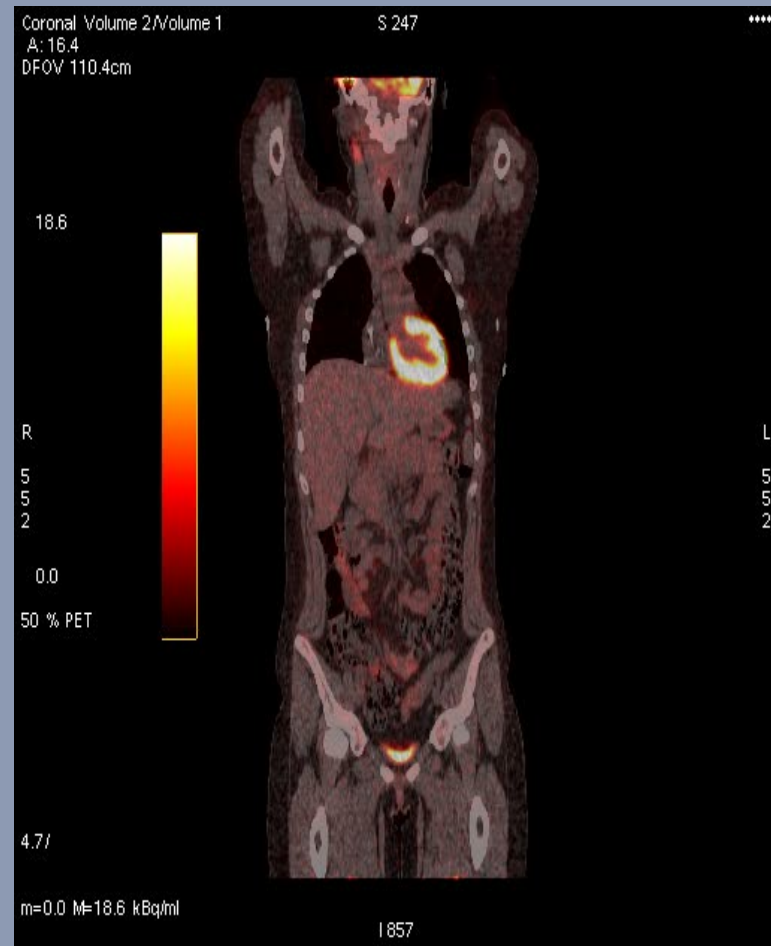
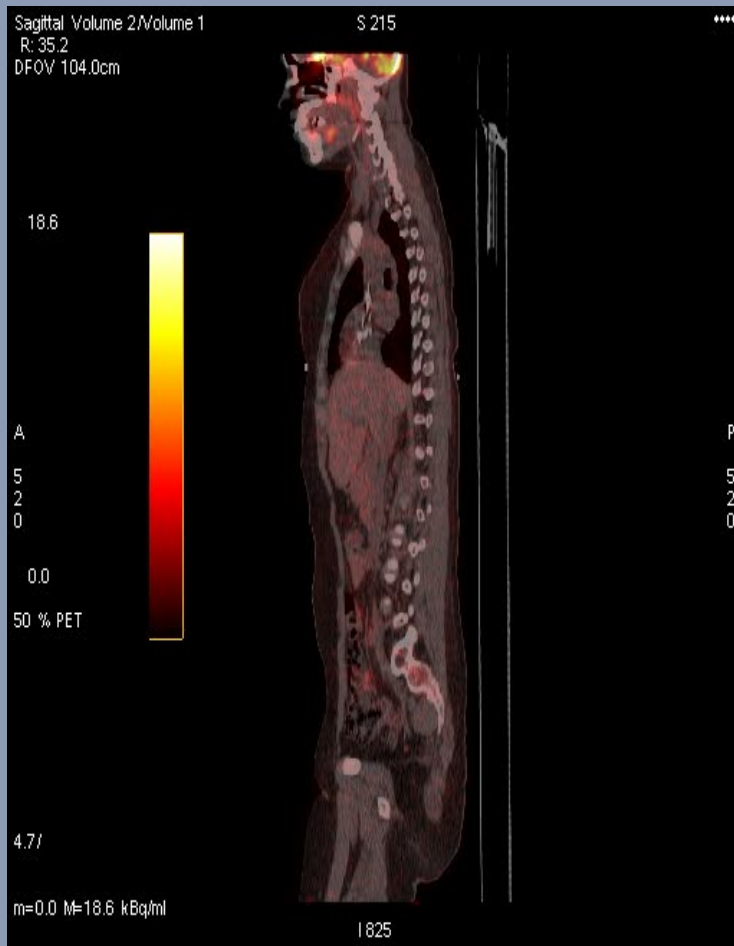
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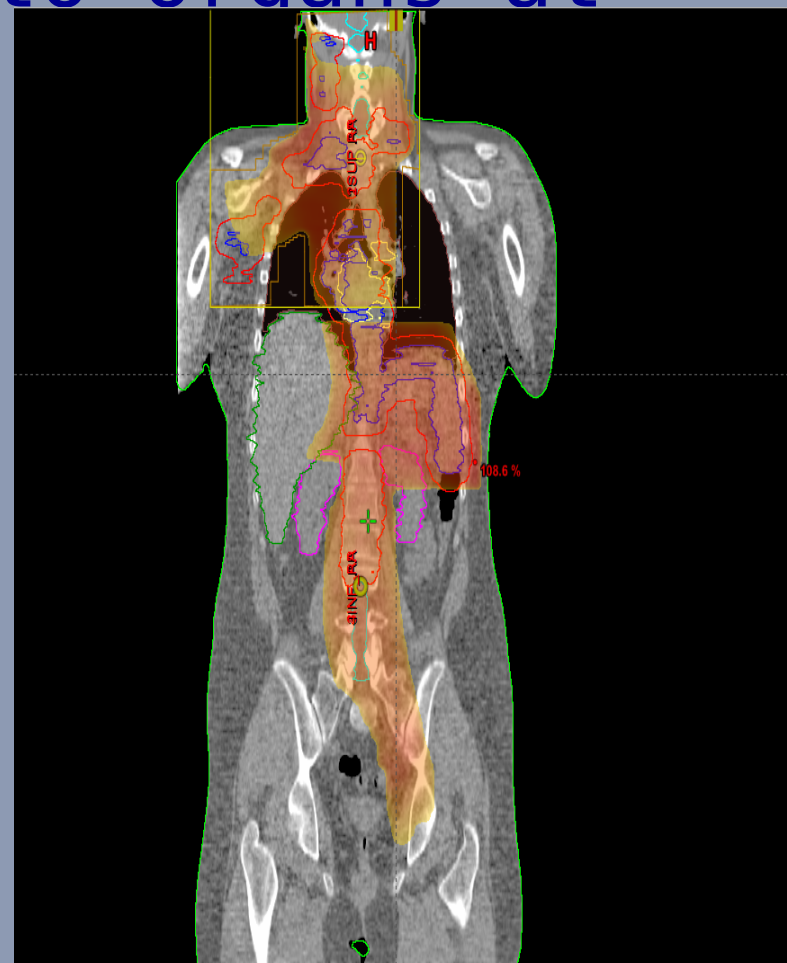
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Early Response Assessment PET scan



Radiotherapy Field and estimated doses to organs at

| Organs at risk | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| | <u>Maximum dose received</u> | <u>Mean Dose</u> |
| - spinal cord | 2139.7 cGy | 1916.2 cGy |
| - heart | 2116.1 cGy | 1701.4 cGy |
| - left kidney | 2169.1 cGy | 1439.8 cGy |
| - right kidney | 2022.2 cGy | 639.3 cGy |
| - lung | 2148.5 cGy | 1168.9 cGy |
| - right breast | 2195.1 cGy | 476.7 cGy |
| - left breast | 2156.4 cGy | 654.6 cGy |
| - liver | 2153.4 cGy | 830.2 cGy |
| - thyroid | 2047.2 cGy | 1999.0 cGy |



Infertility - Risk Factors

RT to HPA or a field that includes testes/ovaries

Busulphan

BCNU

CCNU

Cyclophosphamide

Ifosfamide

Melphalan

Mustine

Nitrogen mustard

Procarbazine

Thiotepa

Chlorambucil

Cytarabine

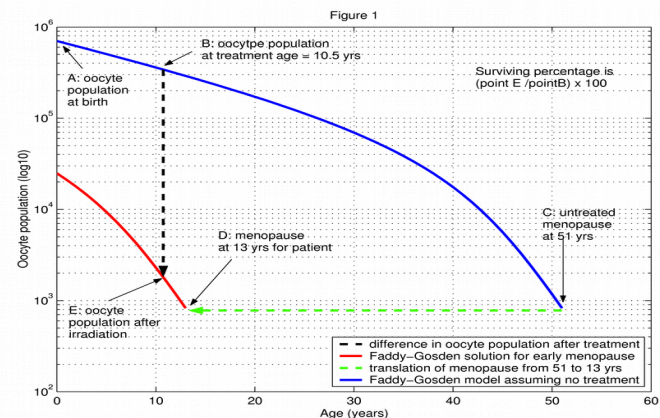
The pre-pubertal gonad is not protected

Radiation-induced ovarian damage

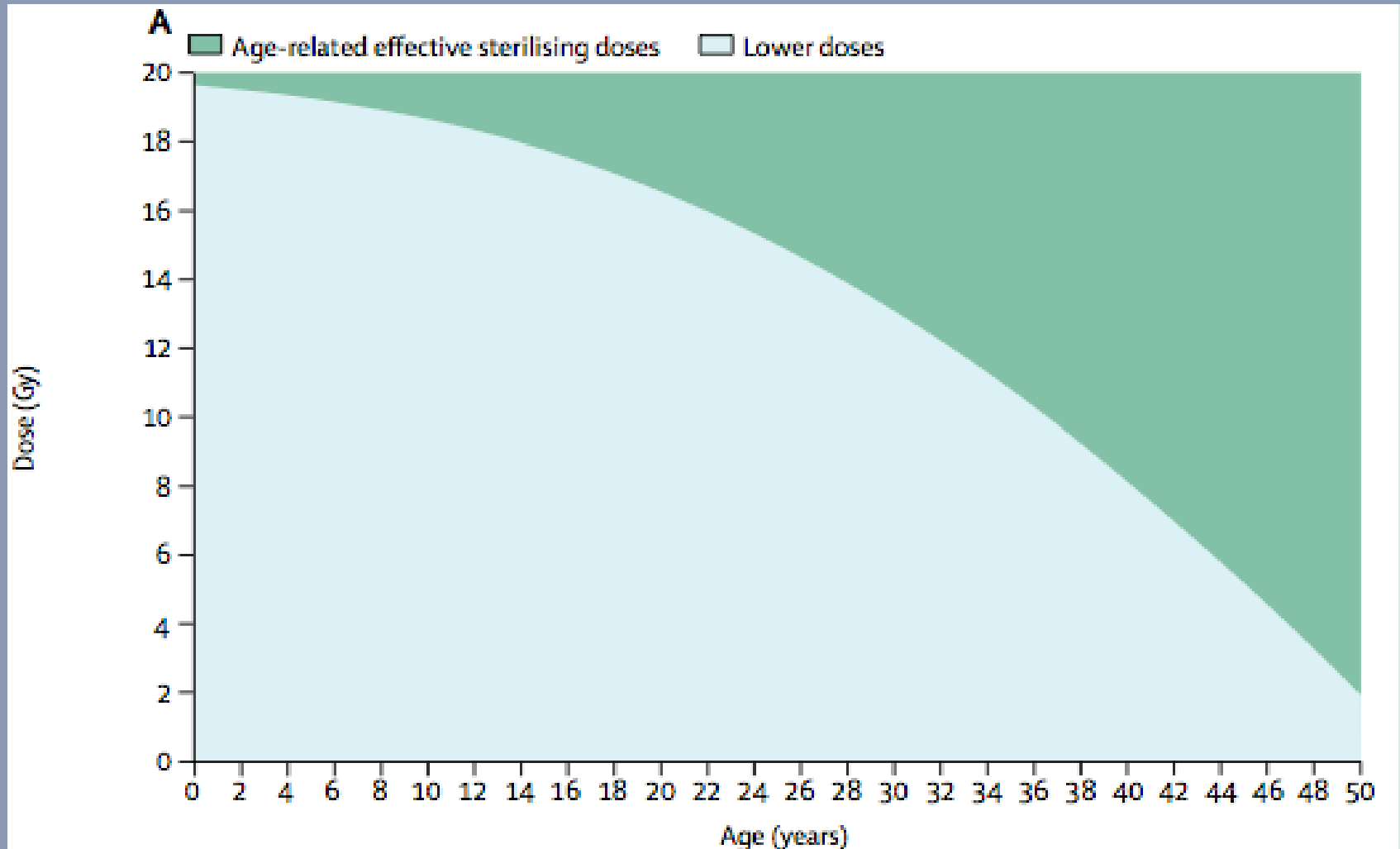
Human oocyte
(Primordial
follicle)

$$LD_{50} < 2 \text{ Gy}$$

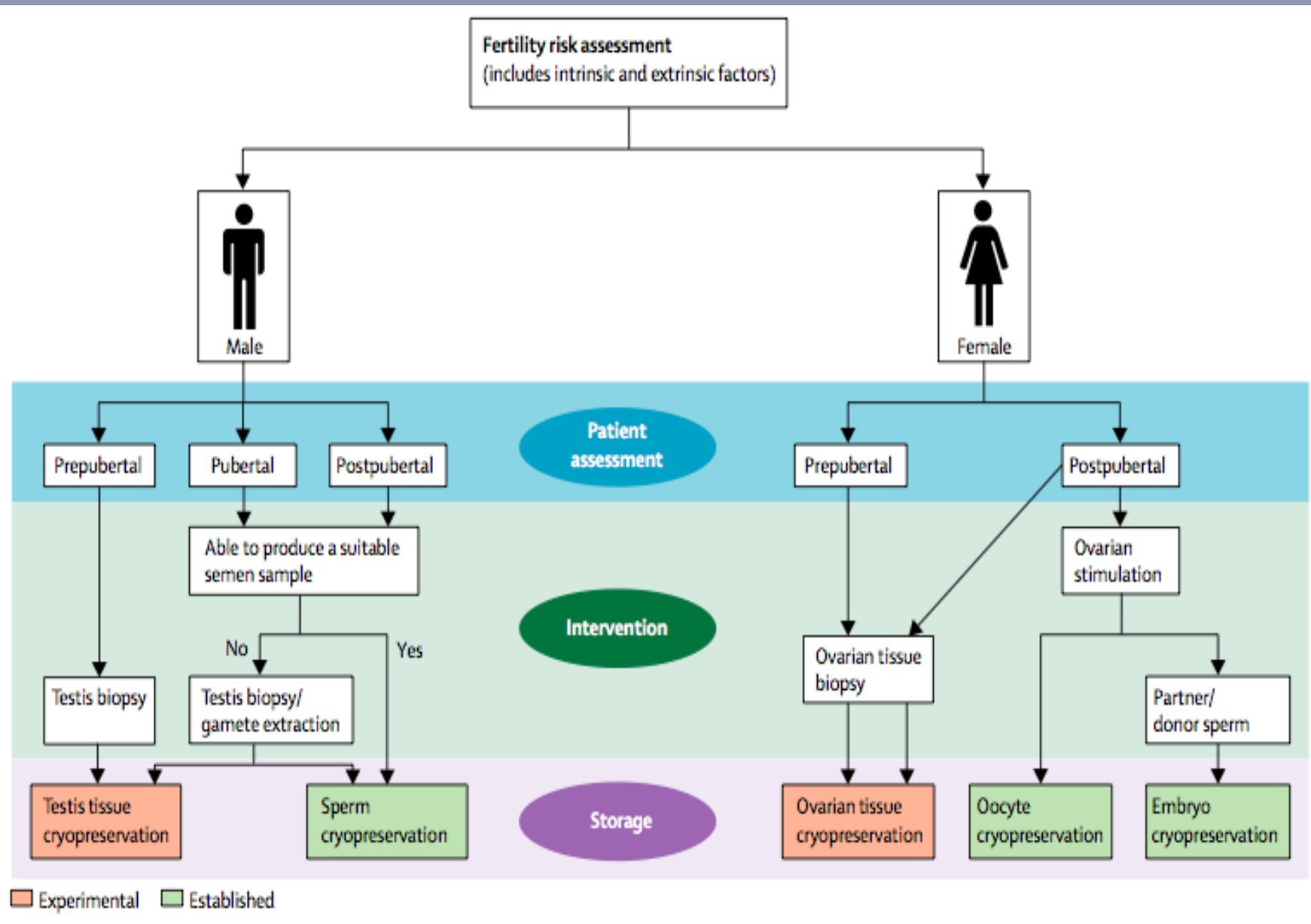
Wallace, Thomson, Kelsey.
(2003) Hum Reprod.



Effective ovarian sterilizing doses of radiotherapy with increasing age



Anderson RA...Wallace WH. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol. 2015



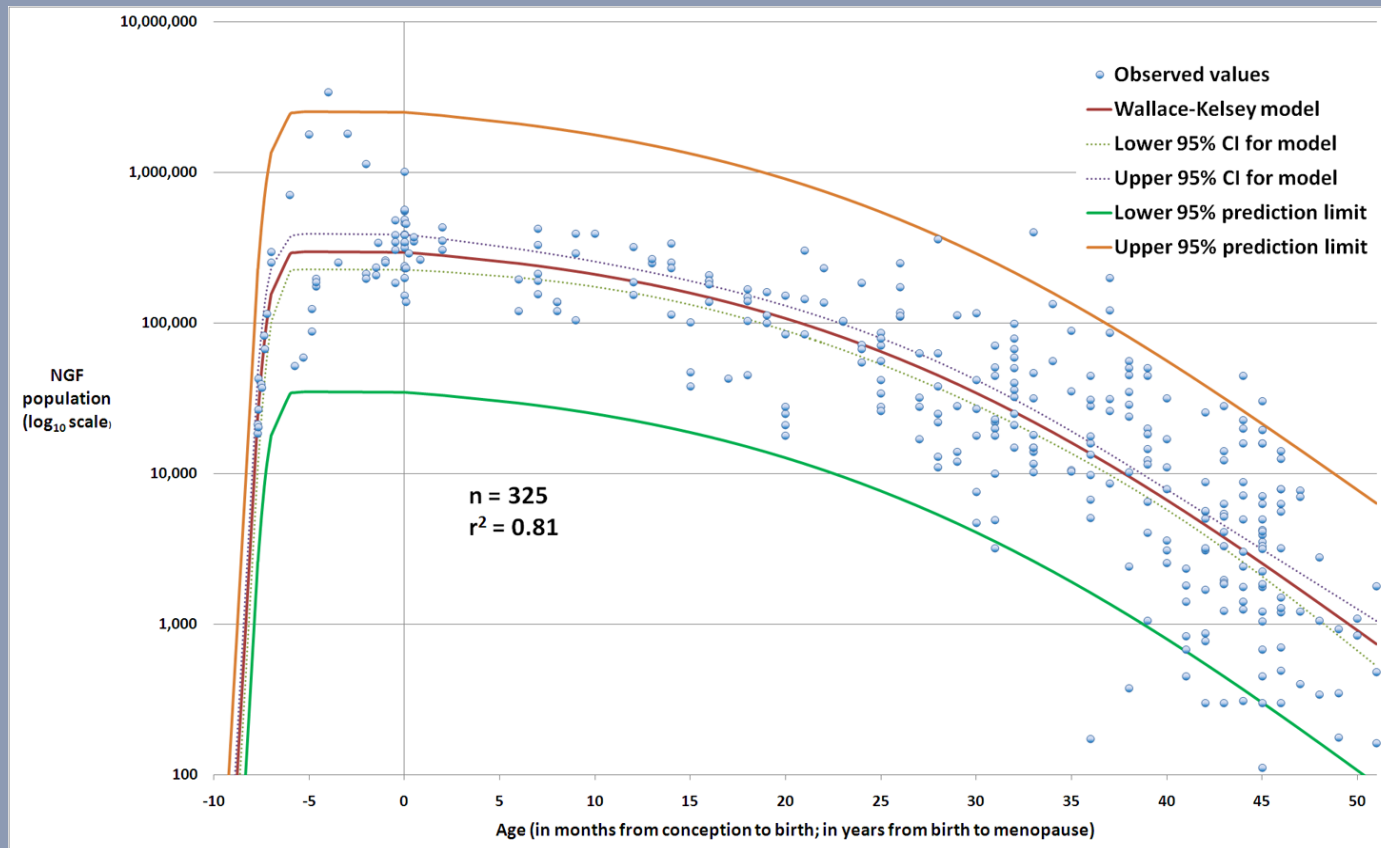
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Ovarian Reserve?



The Wallace-Kelsey Model

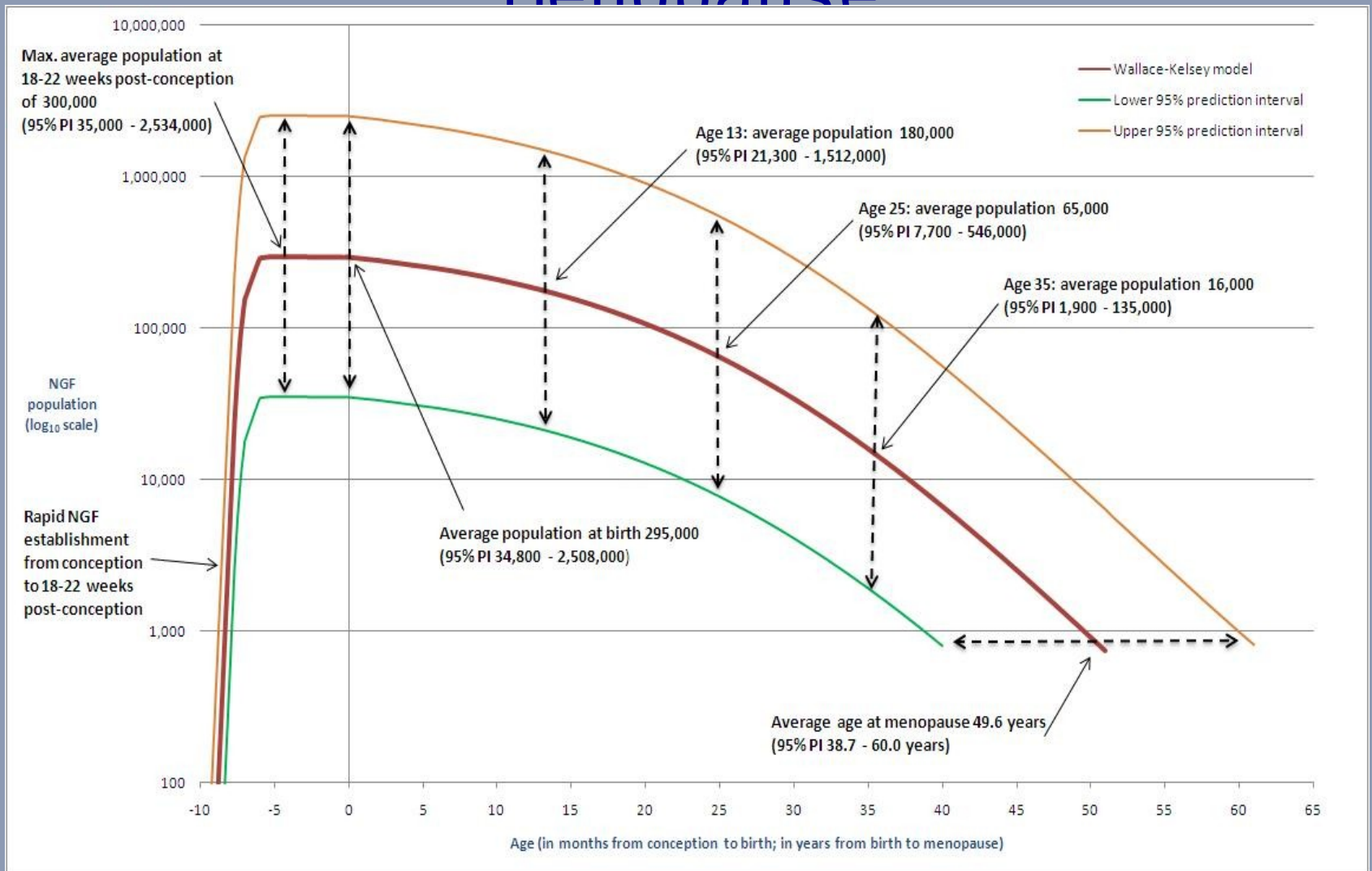
(Five parameter asymmetric double-Gaussian cumulative curve)



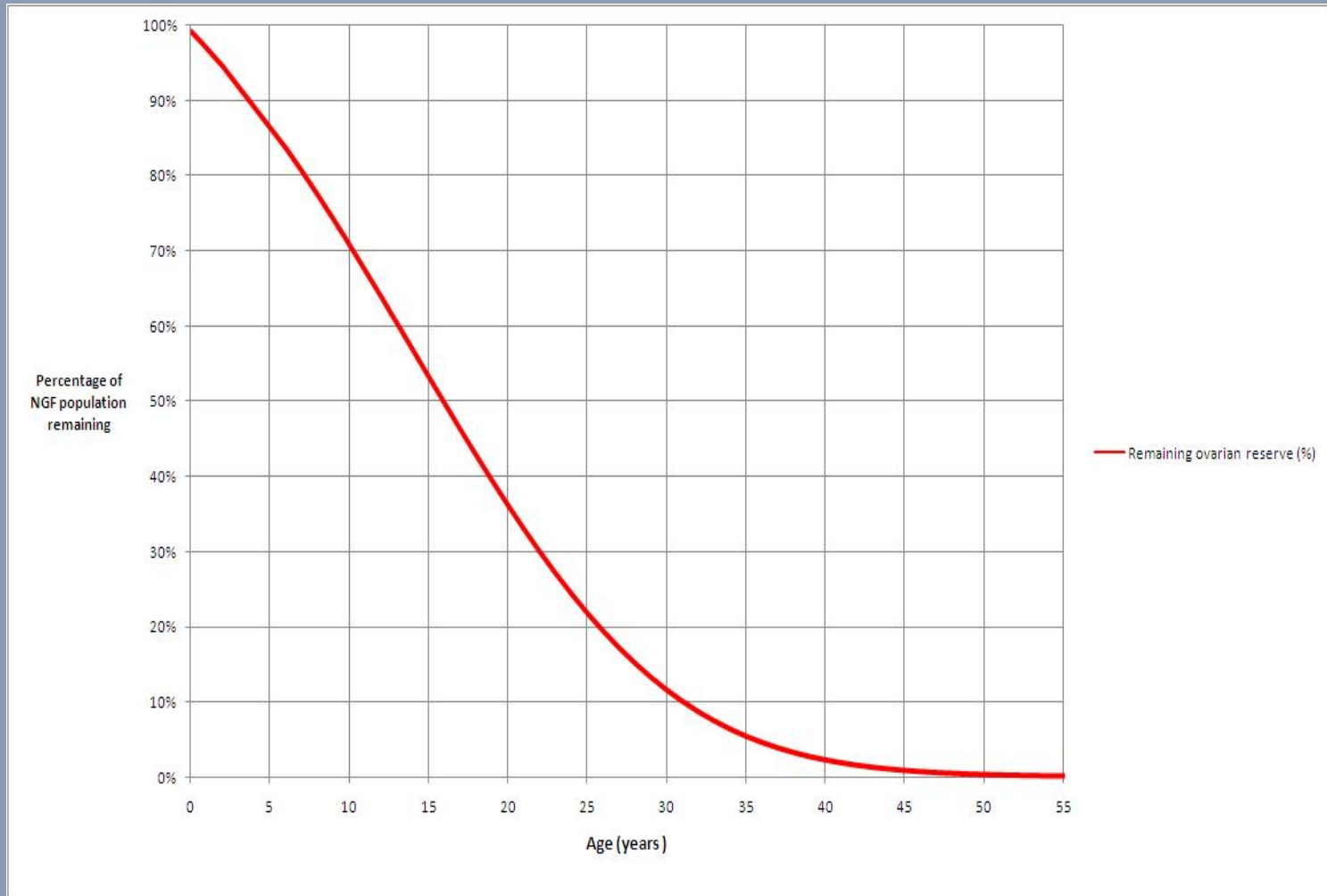
$$\log_{10}(y) = \frac{a}{4} \left[1 + \operatorname{Erf} \left(\frac{x + b + \frac{c}{2}}{d\sqrt{2}} \right) \right] \left[1 - \operatorname{Erf} \left(\frac{x + b - \frac{c}{2}}{e\sqrt{2}} \right) \right]$$

Wallace & Kelsey (2010) PloS ONE

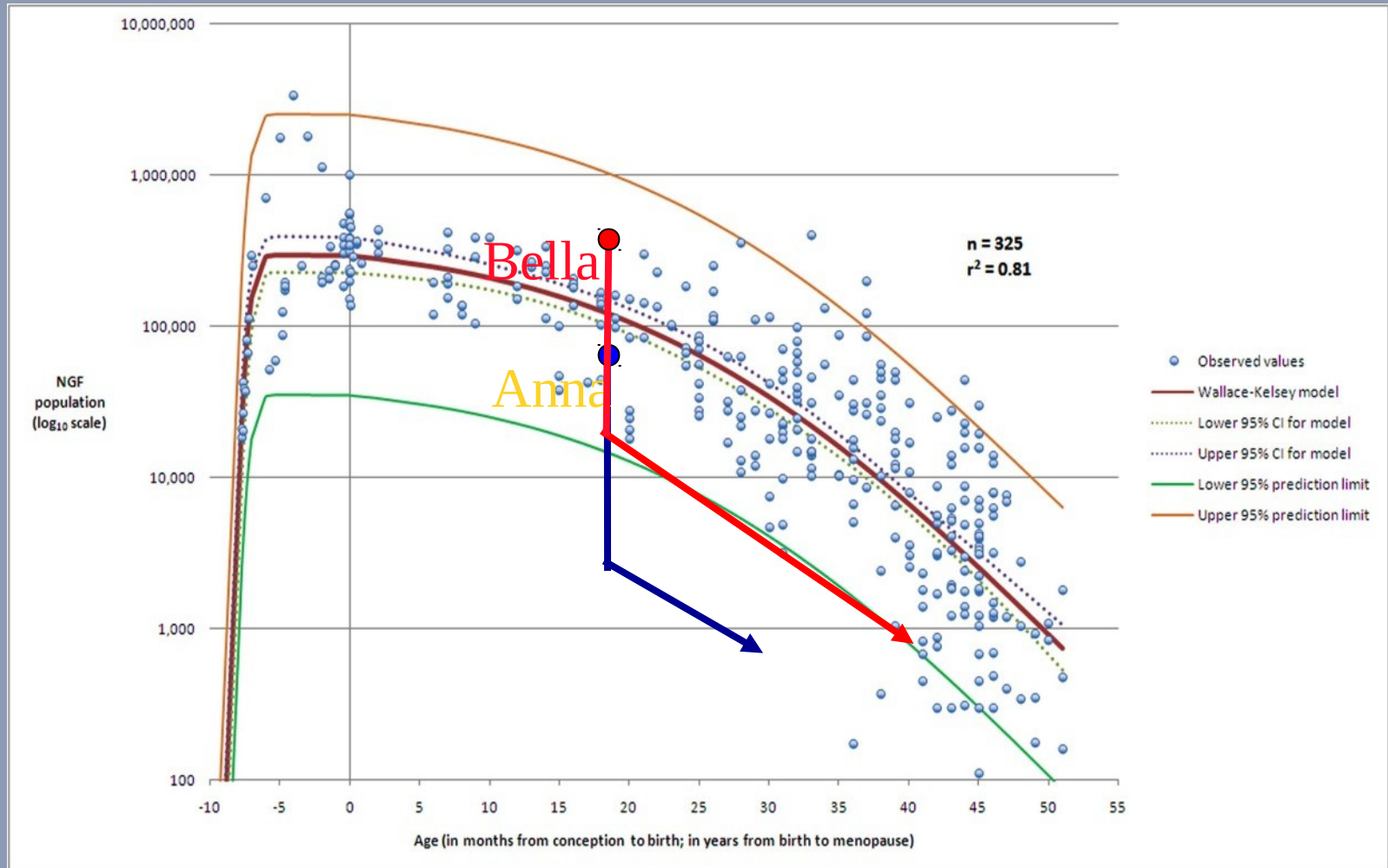
Ovarian reserve: Conception to Menopause



Percentage of NGF population remaining with increasing age



Ovarian reserve: Conception to Menopause



Prediction of Ovarian Reserve (AMH)

Anti Mullerian Hormone (AMH) is an important product of the adult ovary, produced by the granulosa cells of small growing follicles

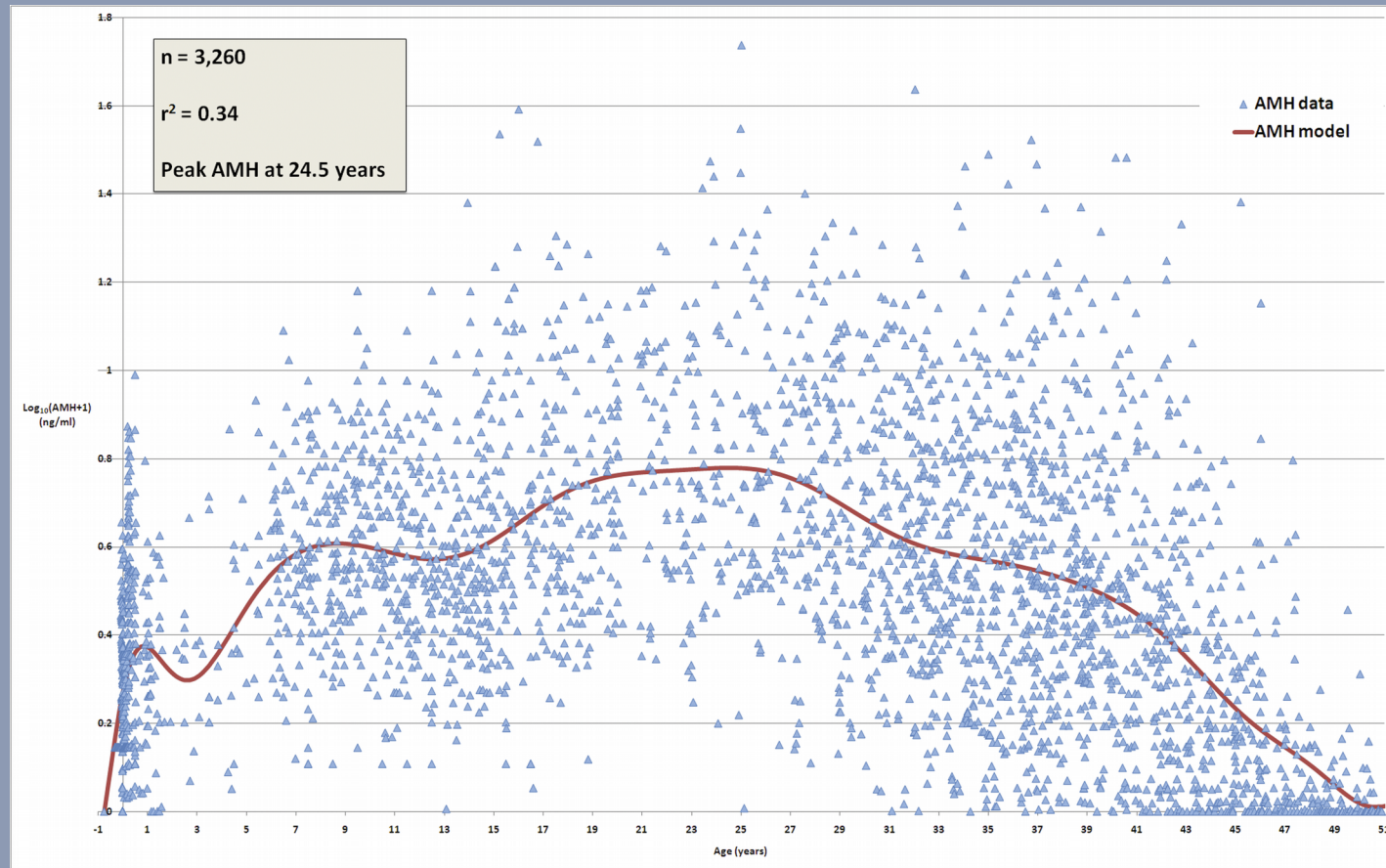
AMH has little variation across and between menstrual cycles

AMH is the best currently available marker of the number of small-growing follicles in the ovary

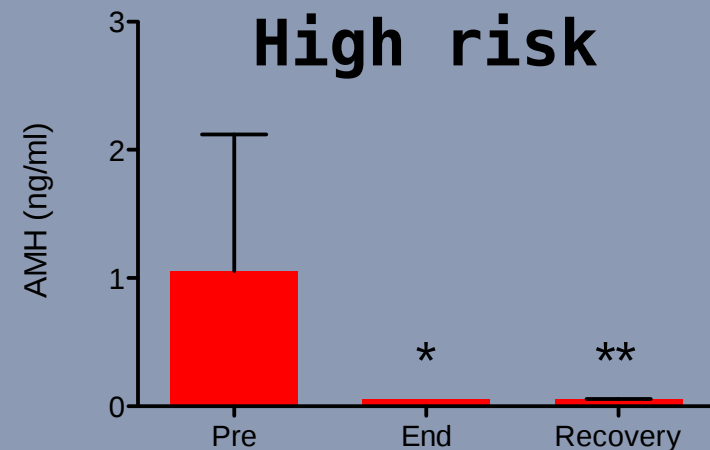
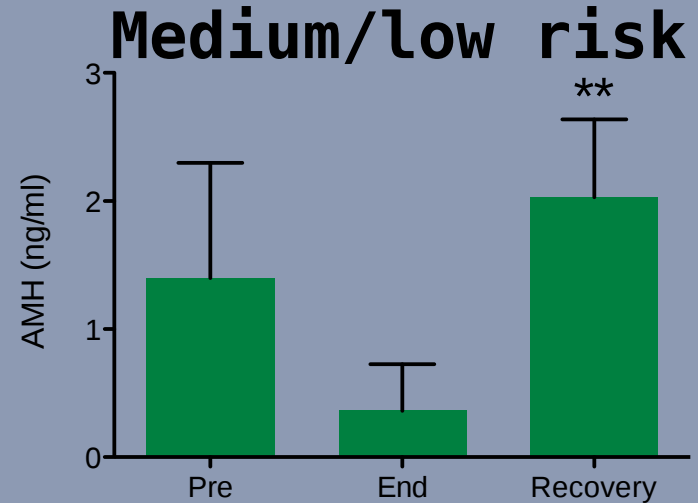
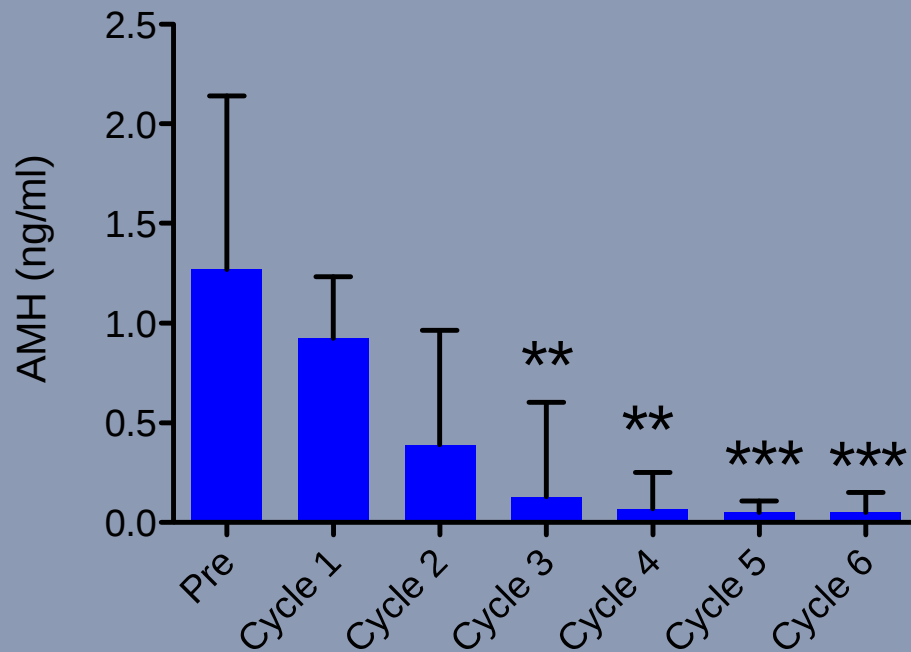
But there was no validated reference model for AMH available

Anderson, Nelson, Wallace (2011) Maturitas

A validated model of serum anti-Mullerian hormone (AMH) from conception to menopause



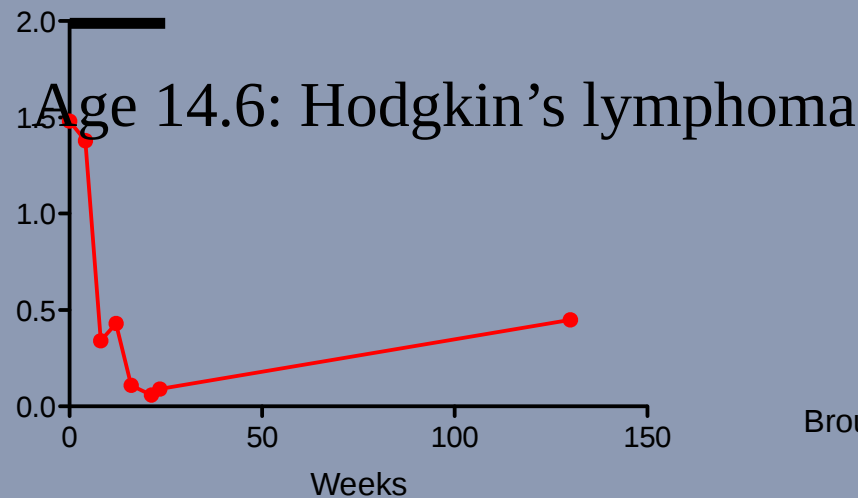
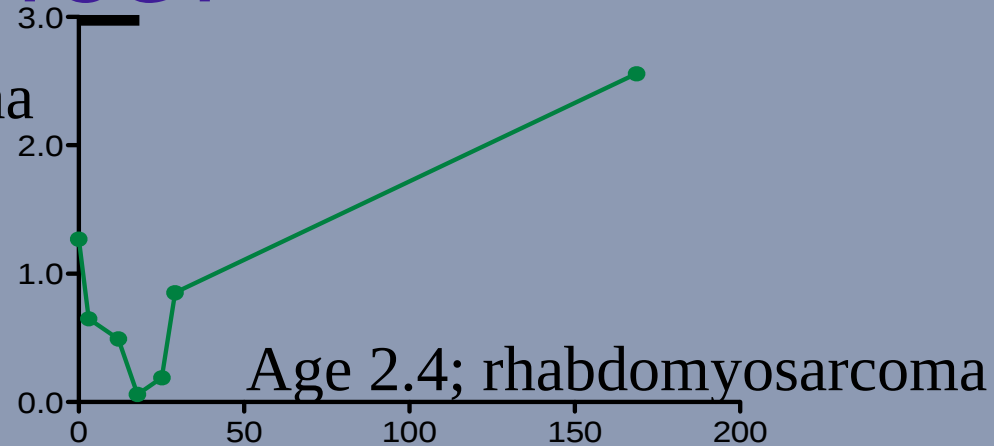
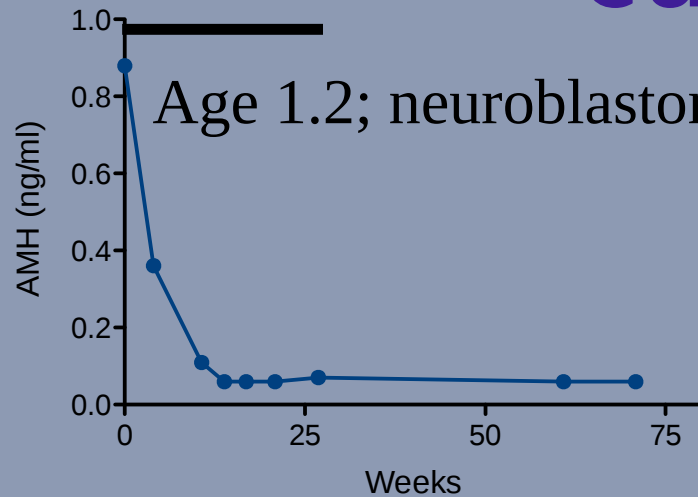
AMH in childhood cancer



22 girls age 0.3-15yr
17 prepubertal

Brougham et al 2012 JCE&M

AMH in 3 girls with cancer



Summary

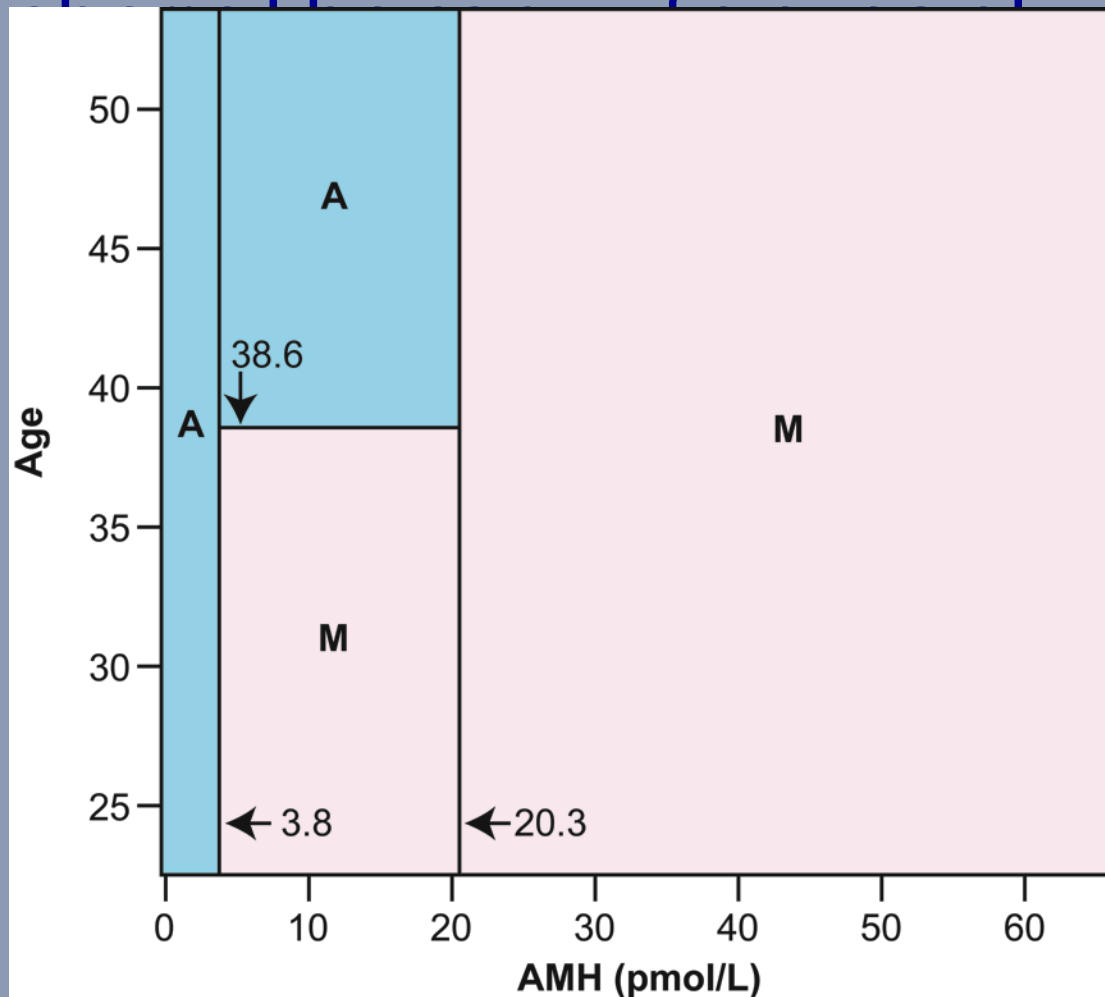
AMH is detectable before puberty

AMH falls rapidly during cancer treatment in both pre-pubertal and pubertal girls

AMH levels recover in those patients at low/medium risk of gonadotoxicity

AMH fails to recover in those at high risk. This could be indicative of future reproductive impairment

Pretreatment anti-Müllerian hormone predicts for loss of ovarian function after breast



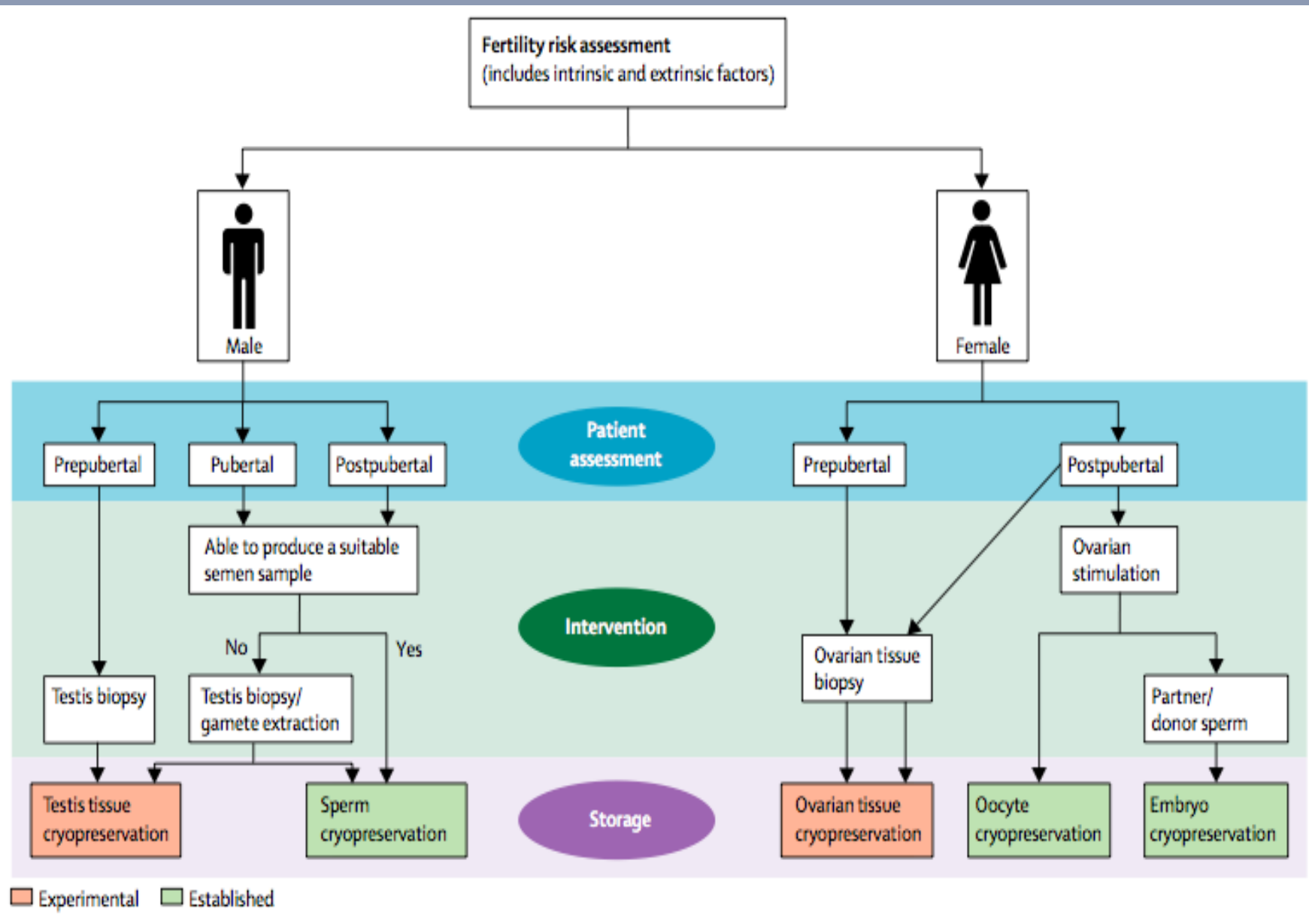
sensitivity 98.2%
specificity 80.0%
for correct classification
of amenorrhoea

n=75

Anderson and Cameron 2011 JCE&M
Anderson et al 2013 Eur J Cancer

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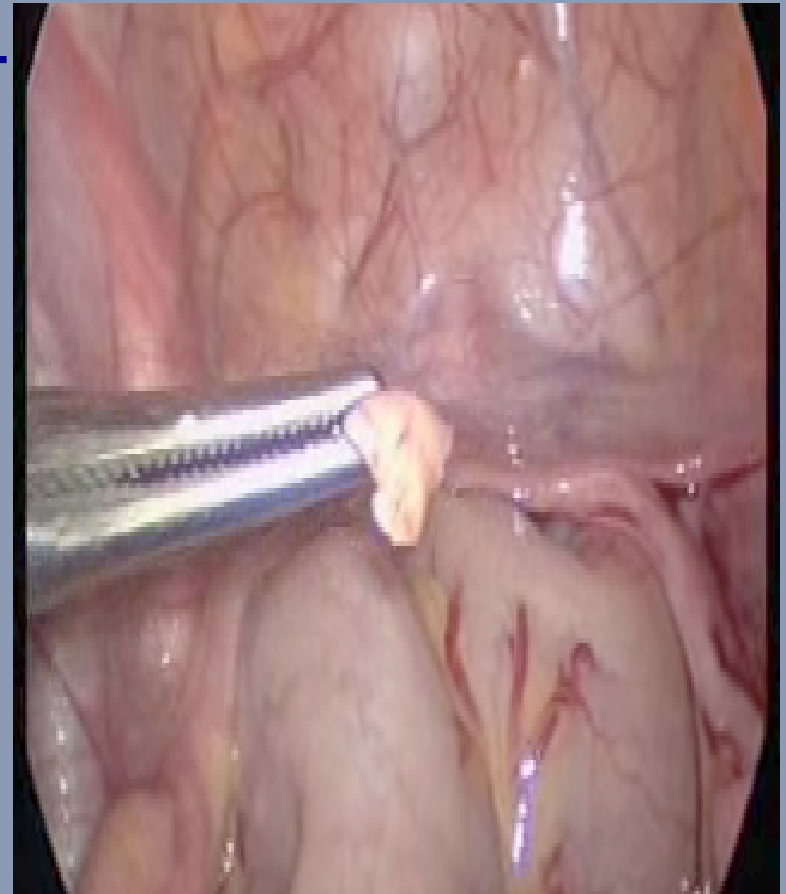
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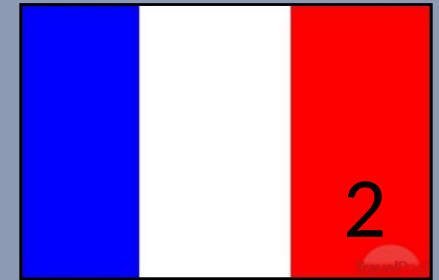
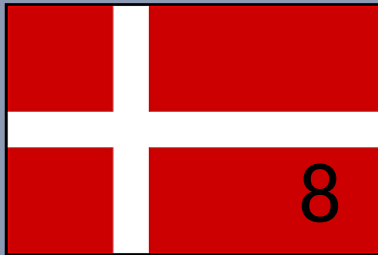
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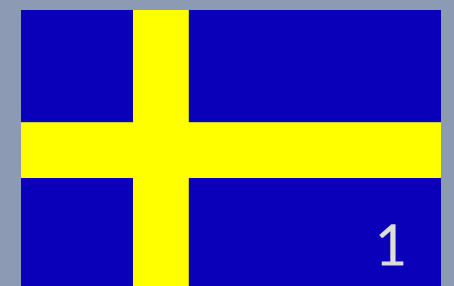
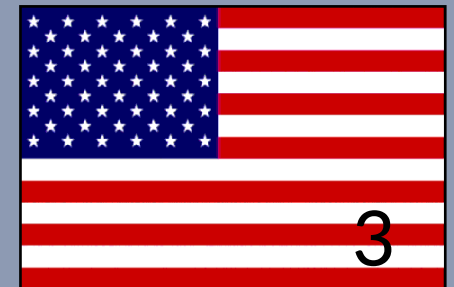


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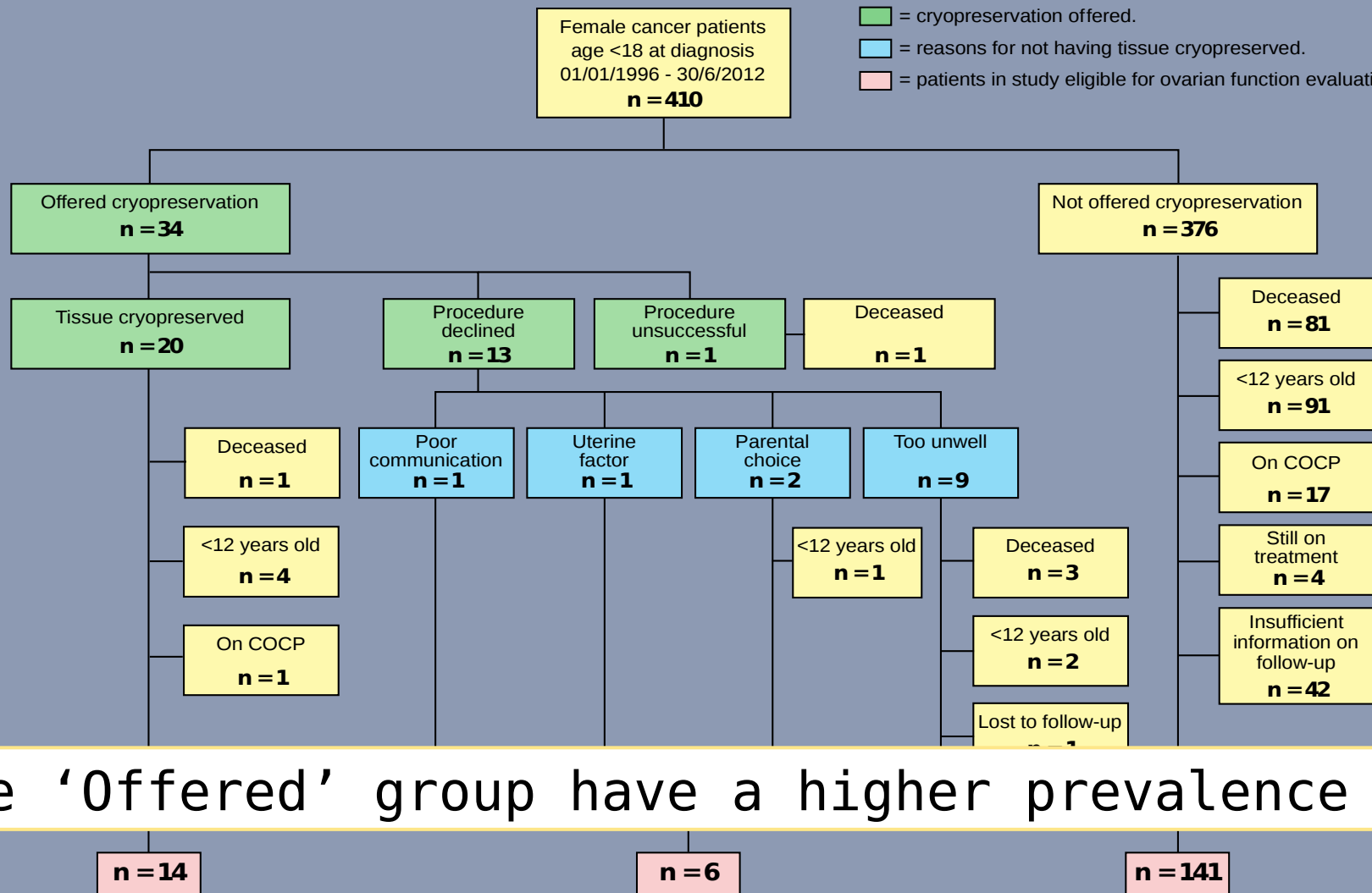
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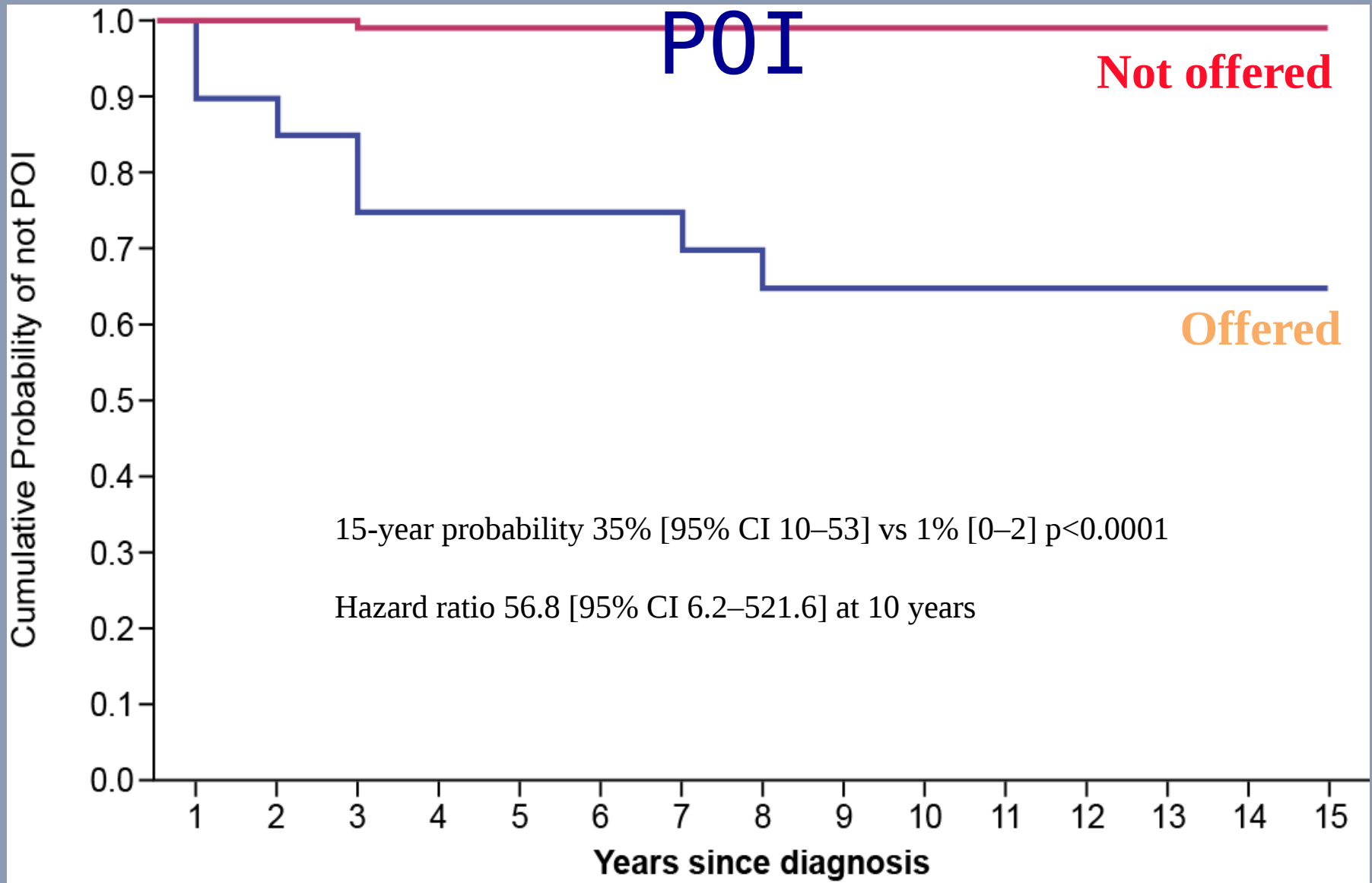
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- Unable to produce a semen sample by masturbation
- No clinically significant pre-existing testicular disease (eg, cryptorchidism)
- Informed consent (parent and, when possible, patient)
- Negative HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis serology

15 year, population-based analysis of criteria for ovarian cryopreservation



Cumulative incidence of



Conclusion

Ovarian cryopreservation was offered to 9% of our patients, and performed in 5%

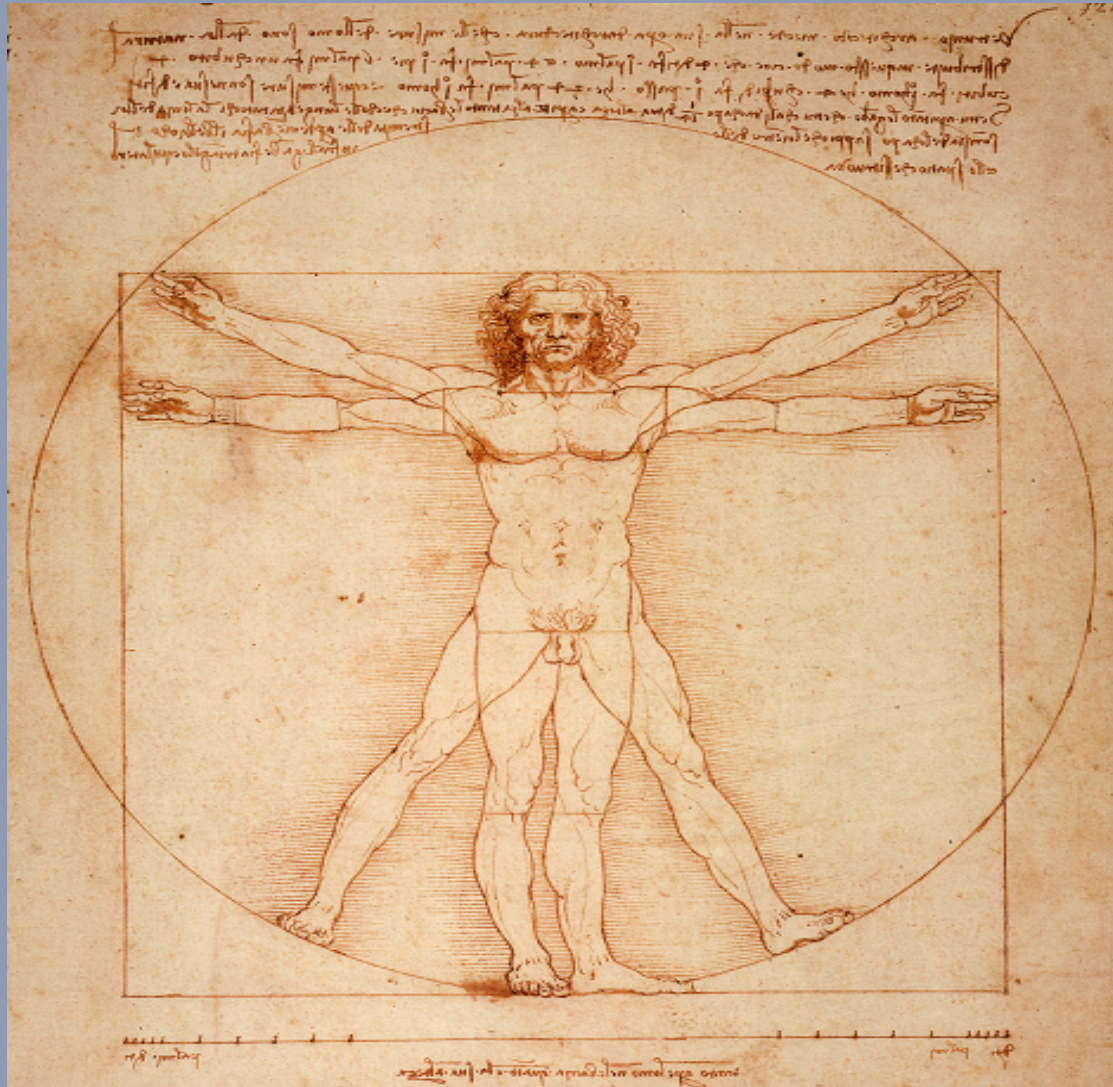
The procedure was safe and without complications

No patients have asked for re-implantation of their tissue – to date

All patients who have thus far developed premature ovarian insufficiency were identified except one patient

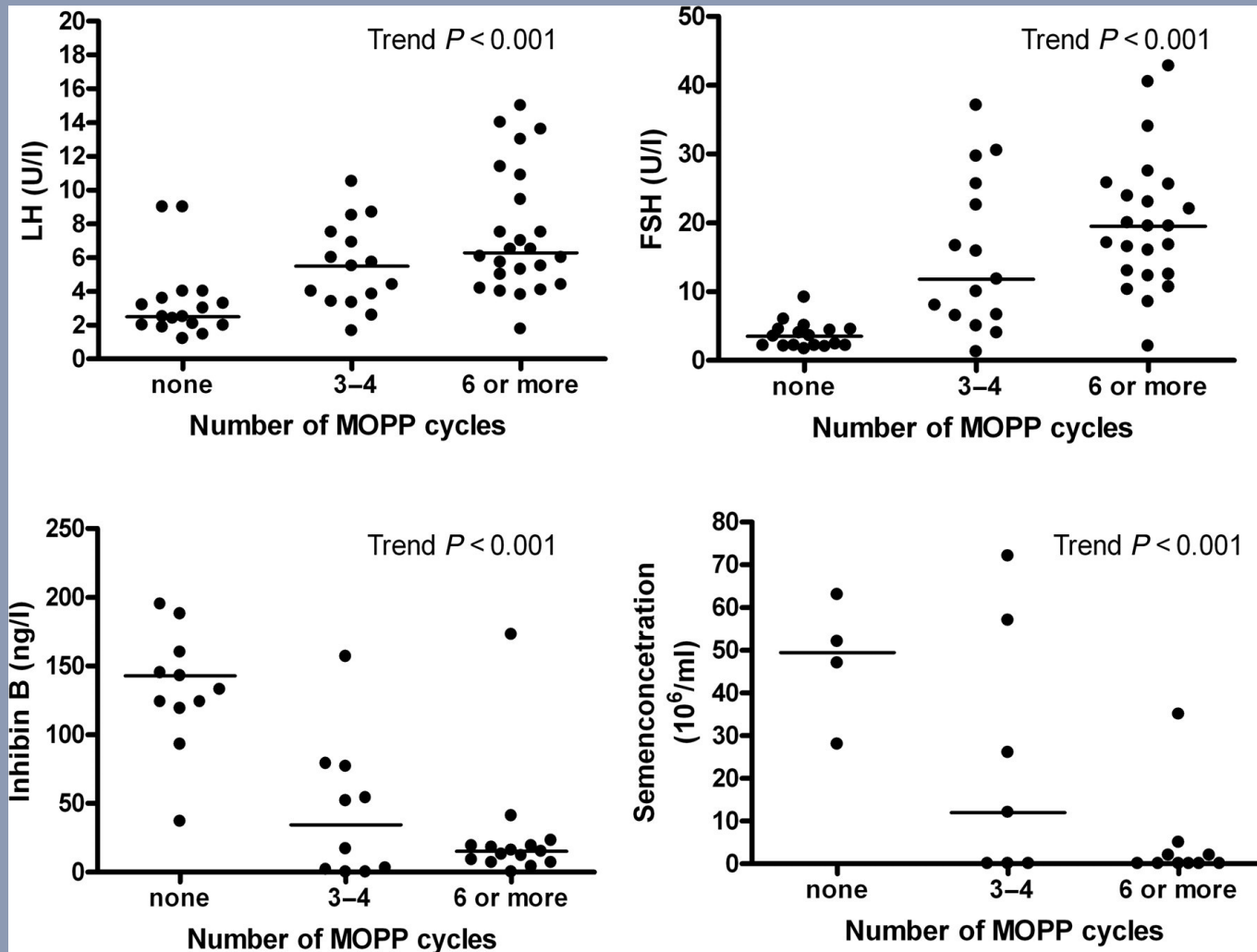
The Edinburgh Selection Criteria have proved to be helpful in selecting those patients at highest risk of POI

Vitruvian man

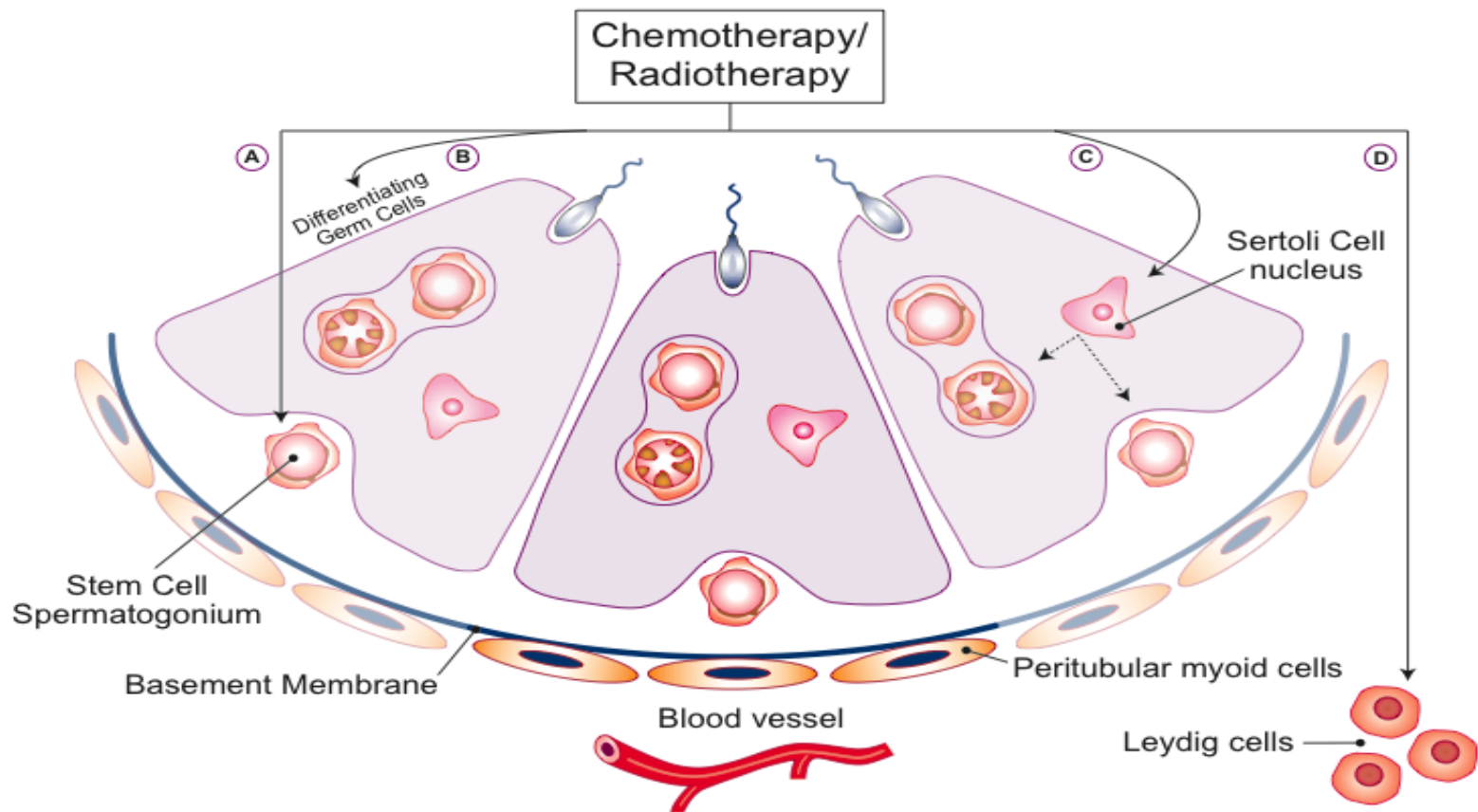


Leonardo da Vinci 1490

Hormone levels and semen concentration in relation to the number of MOPP cycles in male long-term survivors of childhood Hodgkin's.



Sertoli Cell

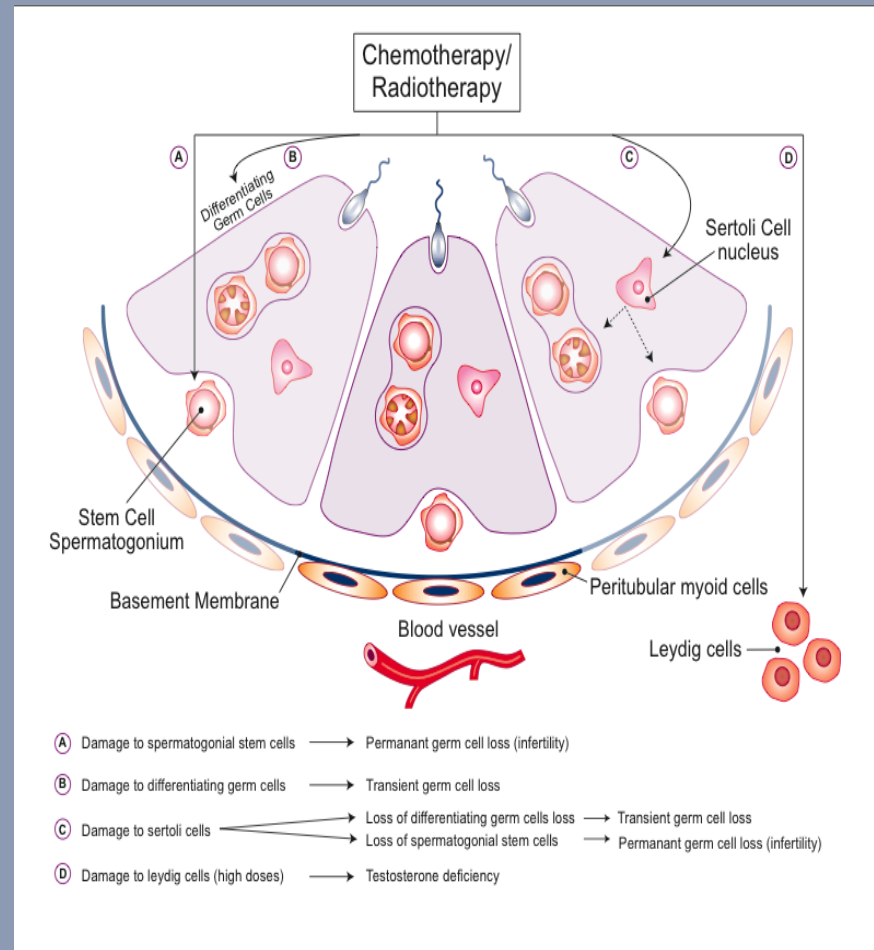


- A** Damage to spermatogonial stem cells → Permanent germ cell loss (infertility)
- B** Damage to differentiating germ cells → Transient germ cell loss
- C** Damage to sertoli cells
→ Loss of differentiating germ cells loss → Transient germ cell loss
→ Loss of spermatogonial stem cells → Permanent germ cell loss (infertility)
- D** Damage to leydig cells (high doses) → Testosterone deficiency

Radiation-induced testicular damage

Germinal epithelium

>1.2Gy azoospermia



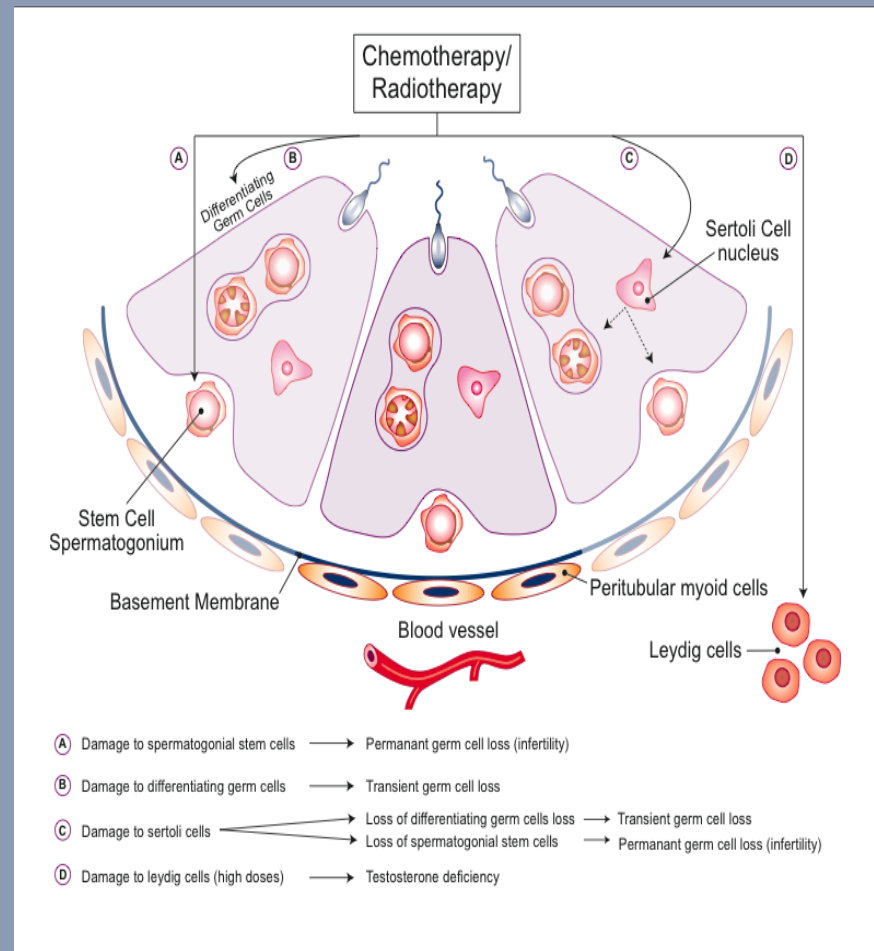
Radiation-induced testicular damage

Leydig cell function

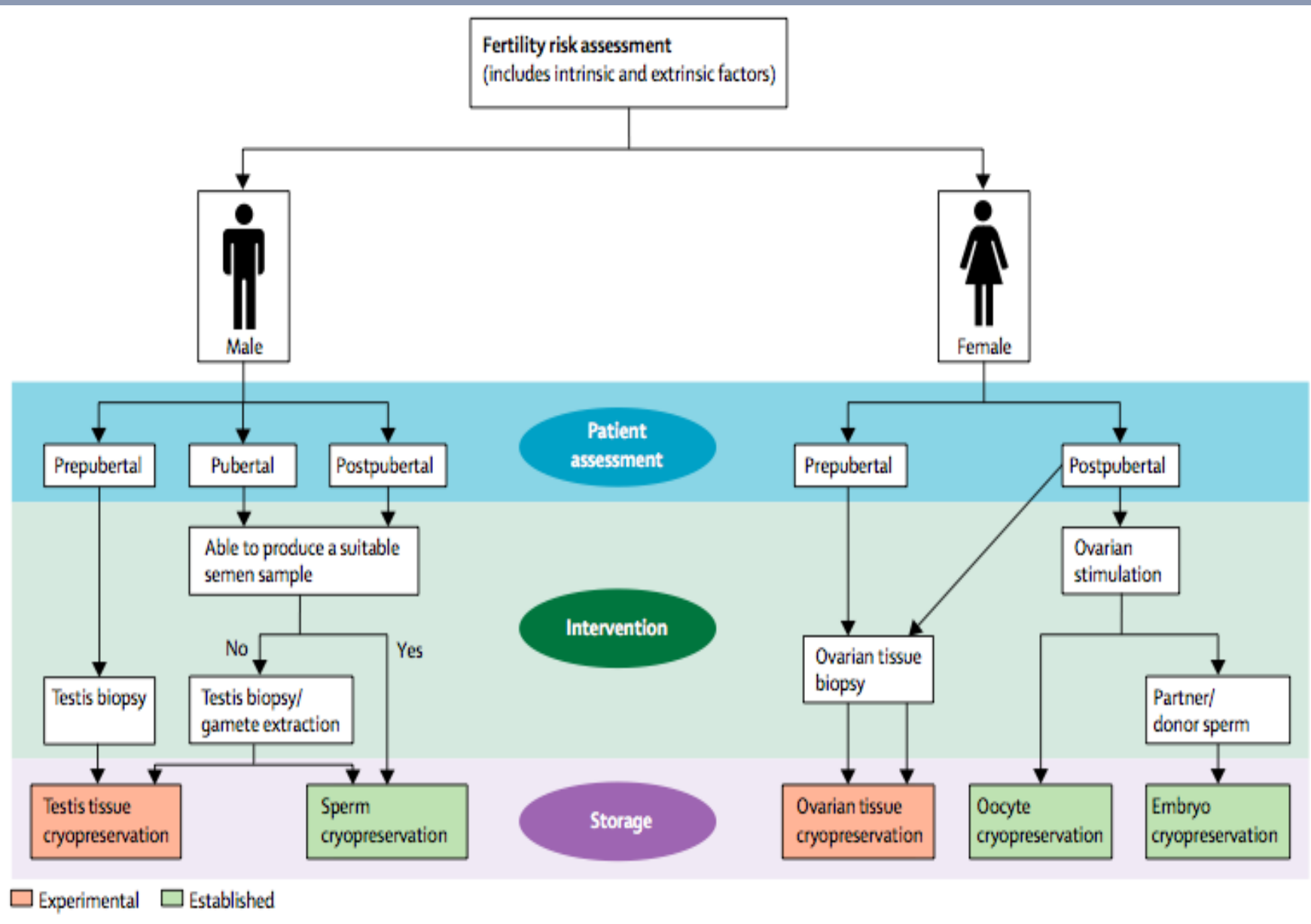
Dose received by testis $P < 0.05$

Time Interval after radiotherapy $P < 0.05$

Age at treatment
NS



Li, Kelsey, Wallace (unpublished data)



Anderson RA...Wallace WH. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol. 2015

Males: Fertility preservation

Young men who can produce semen should have the opportunity of sperm banking before treatment begins

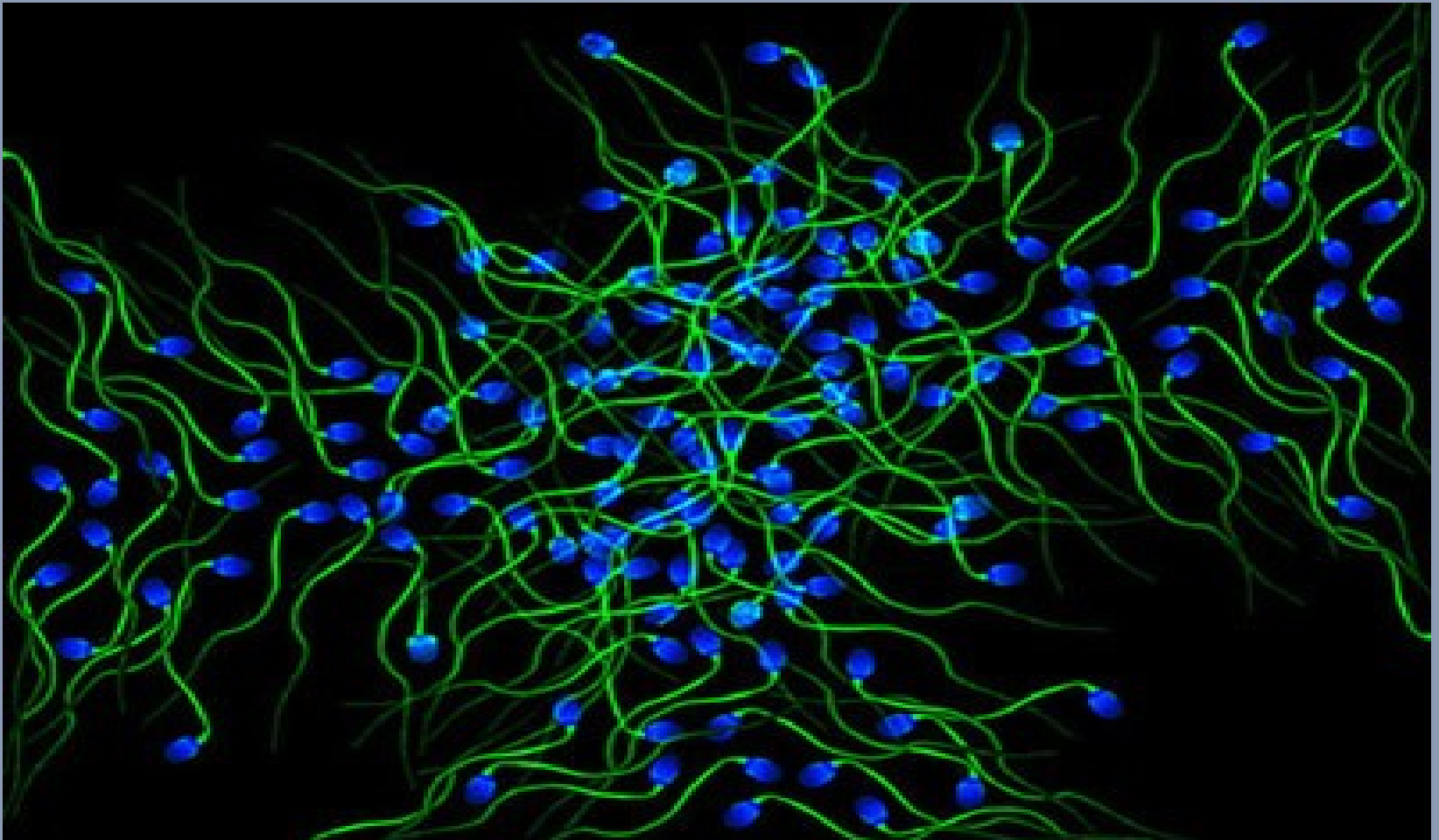
Sperm retrieval should be considered if the chances of infertility are high and the testes are >10mls

- Storage of gametes is governed by the HFE act 1990
- Written informed consent from a competent male is required

There is currently no established option to preserve fertility in the pre-pubertal boy....

Isolated human sperm cells (1500x)

Albert Tousson – Nikon Small world



Cryopreservation of pre-pubertal testis tissue prior to cancer treatment

Boys undergoing cancer treatment with >80% risk of infertility

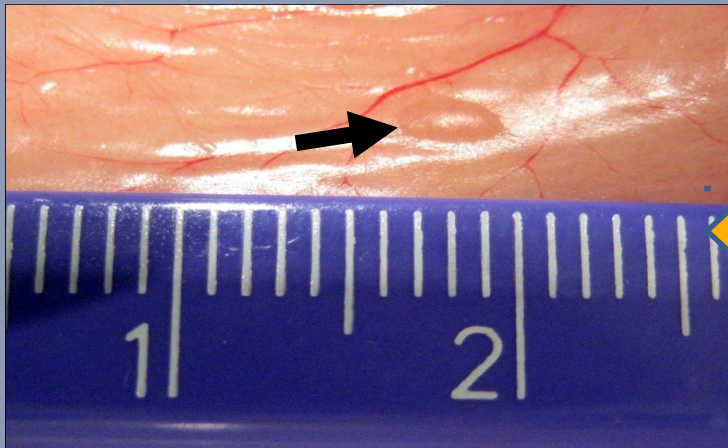
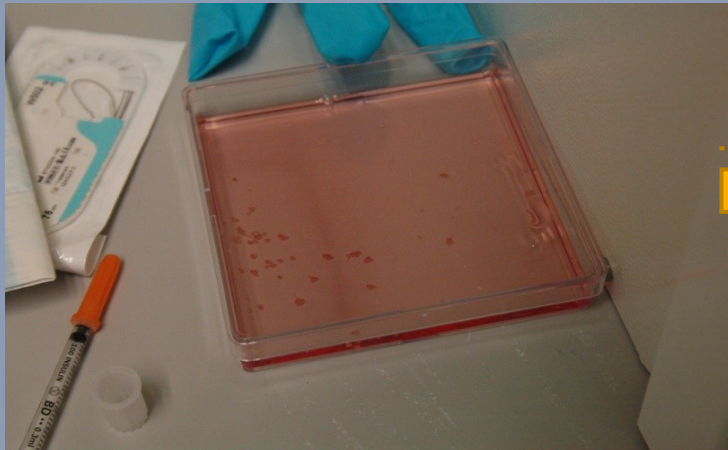
Biopsy to be taken with routine procedure

Storage by Tissue Services according to 'mature' or 'immature' protocol

Small piece of tissue to be used for research

Ethical Approval Granted – September 2013

Human Testis Xenografting



Challenges

Provide fertility counseling to all young patients with cancer

Cryopreserve ovarian tissue from the right (high risk) patients

Define the success rate of the procedures

Develop IVG/M as a safe alternative to re-implantation through basic research

Edinburgh Fertility Preservation



www.ed.ac.uk/Edinburgh-fertility-preservation



@edinfertility

Acknowledgements



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Evelyn Telfer

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George Galea



Rod Mitchell

Louise Bath

Chris Kelnar

Angela Edgar

Mark Brougham

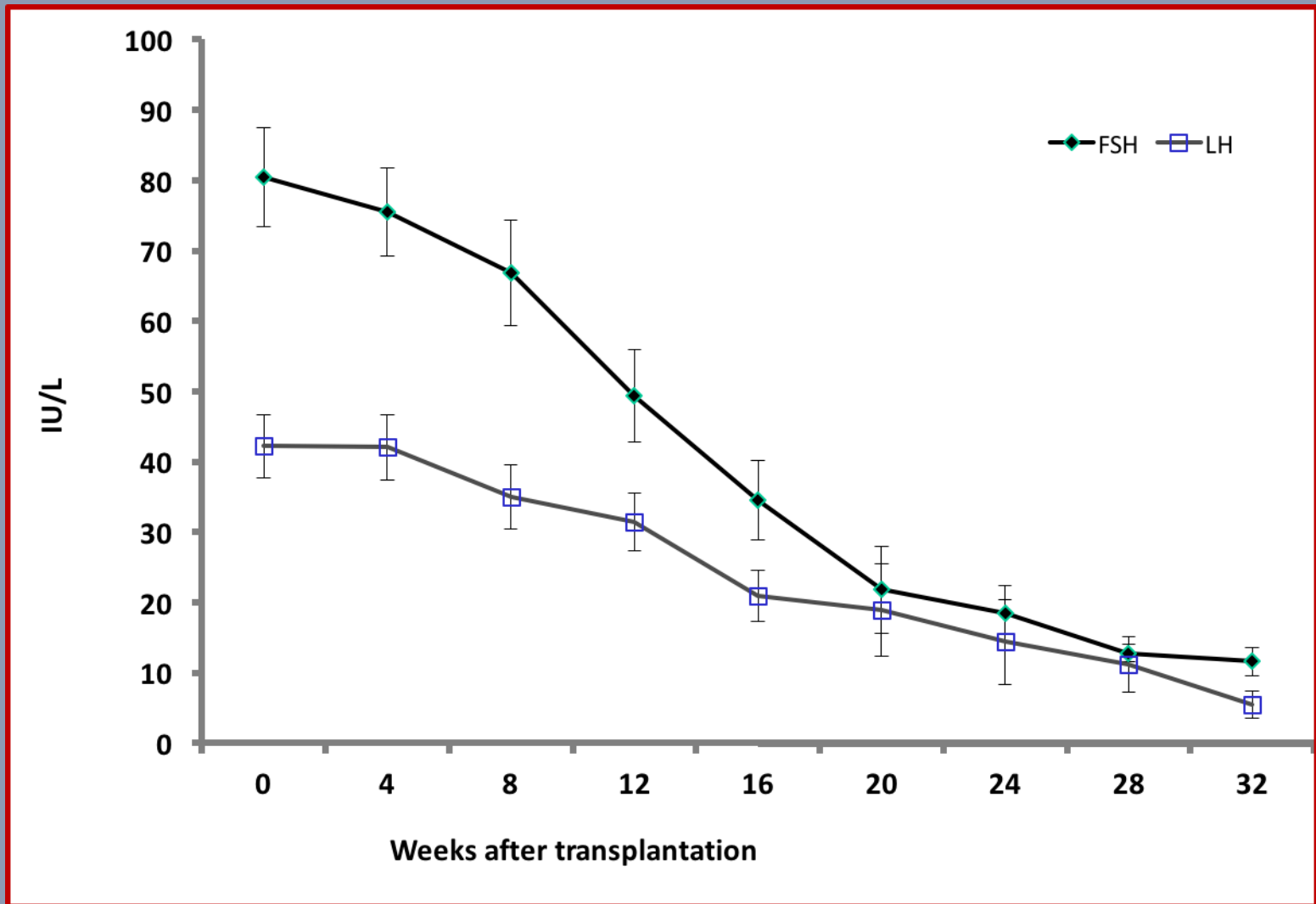
Fraser Munro



Thank You

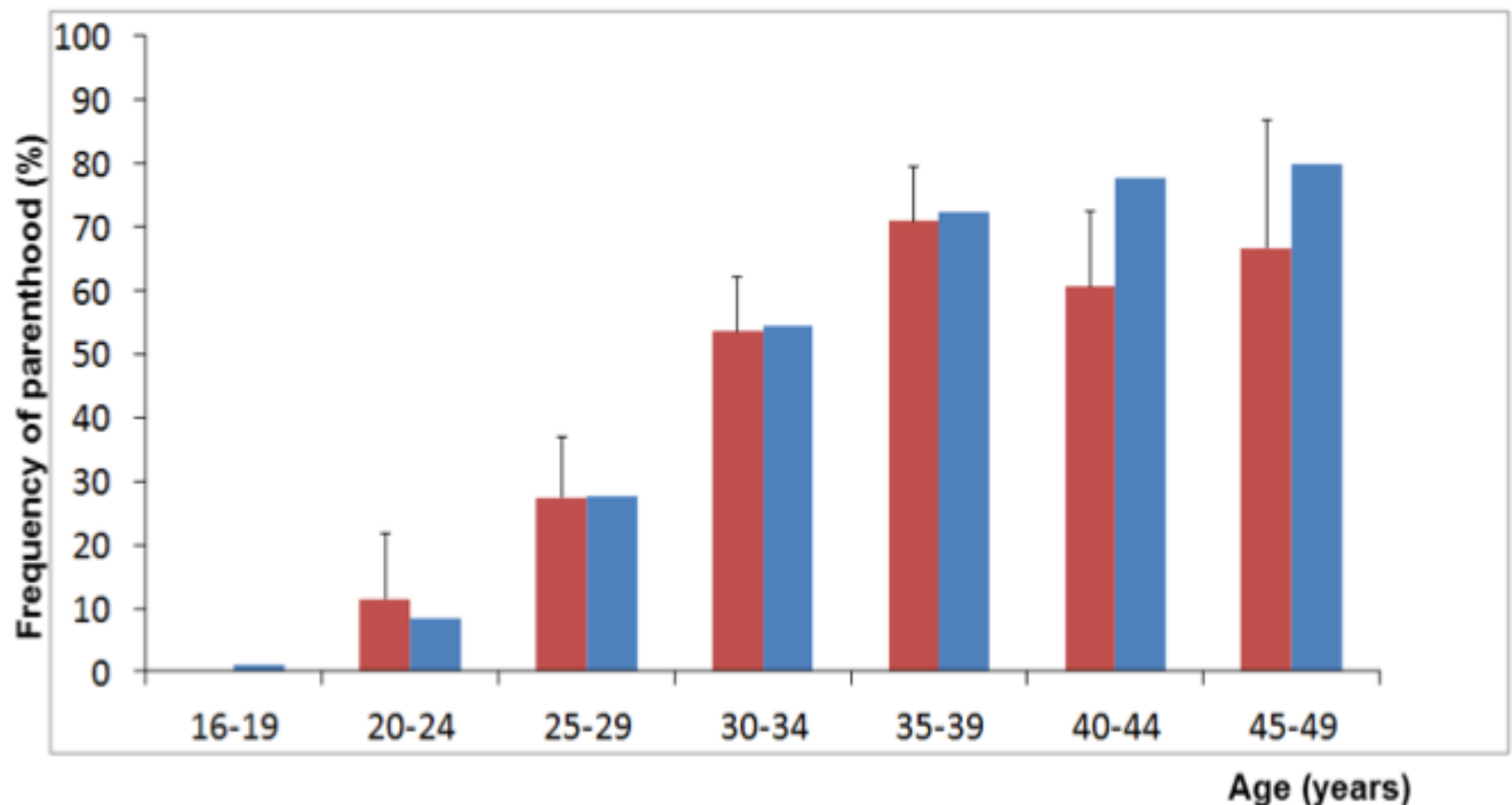


Reduction in FSH and LH following transplantation of frozen/thawed ovarian tissue in Danish patients



Parenthood in 590 adult female survivors treated with five successive protocols for Hodgkin lymphoma during childhood and adolescence. A prospective, longitudinal and long-term study.

Professor Jürgen H. Brämwig, M.D., Marianne Riepenhausen, Ph.D. Professor Günther Schellong, M.D.



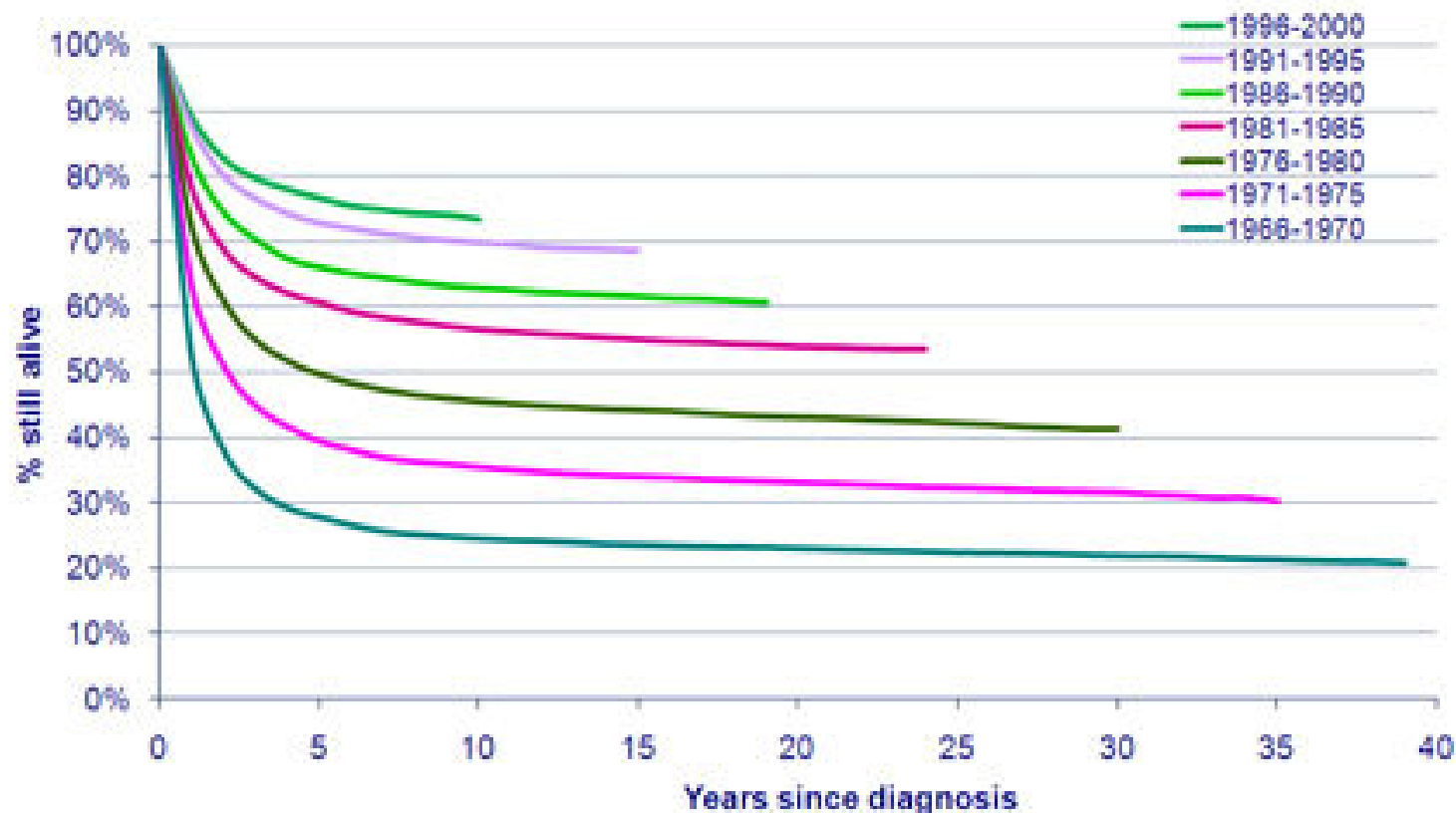
Lancet Oncology (2015)

Parenthood in female HL-survivors <18 years at diagnosis is similar to parenthood in the 16-39 year old female German population and not affected by gonadotoxic chemotherapy.

It is reduced only in women >40 years and in women who received pelvic radiation

Improved Five Year Survival (1966-2000)

Figure 3.1: Survival of childhood cancer patients diagnosed 1966-2000, by period of diagnosis

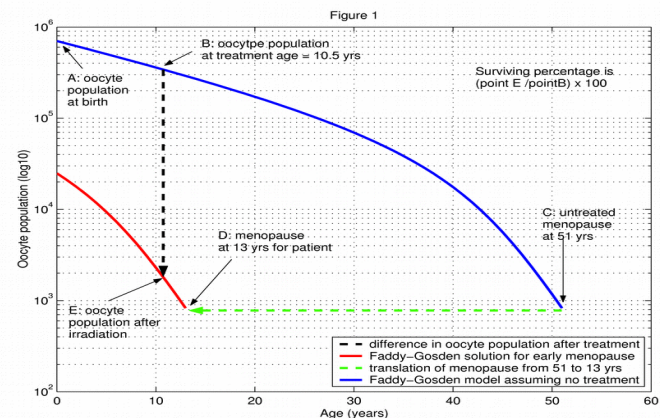


Radiation-induced ovarian damage

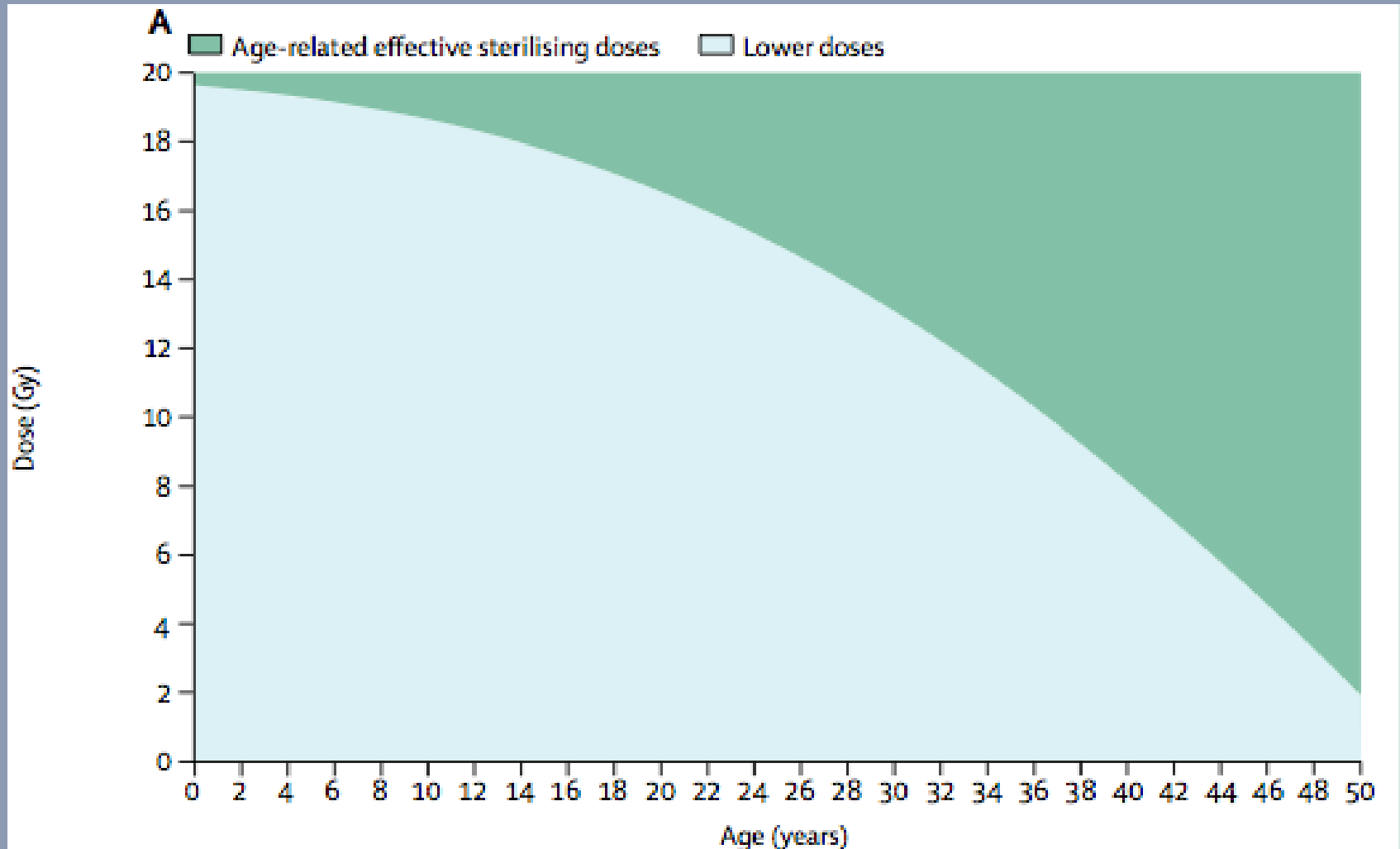
Human oocyte
(Primordial
follicle)

$$LD_{50} < 2 \text{ Gy}$$

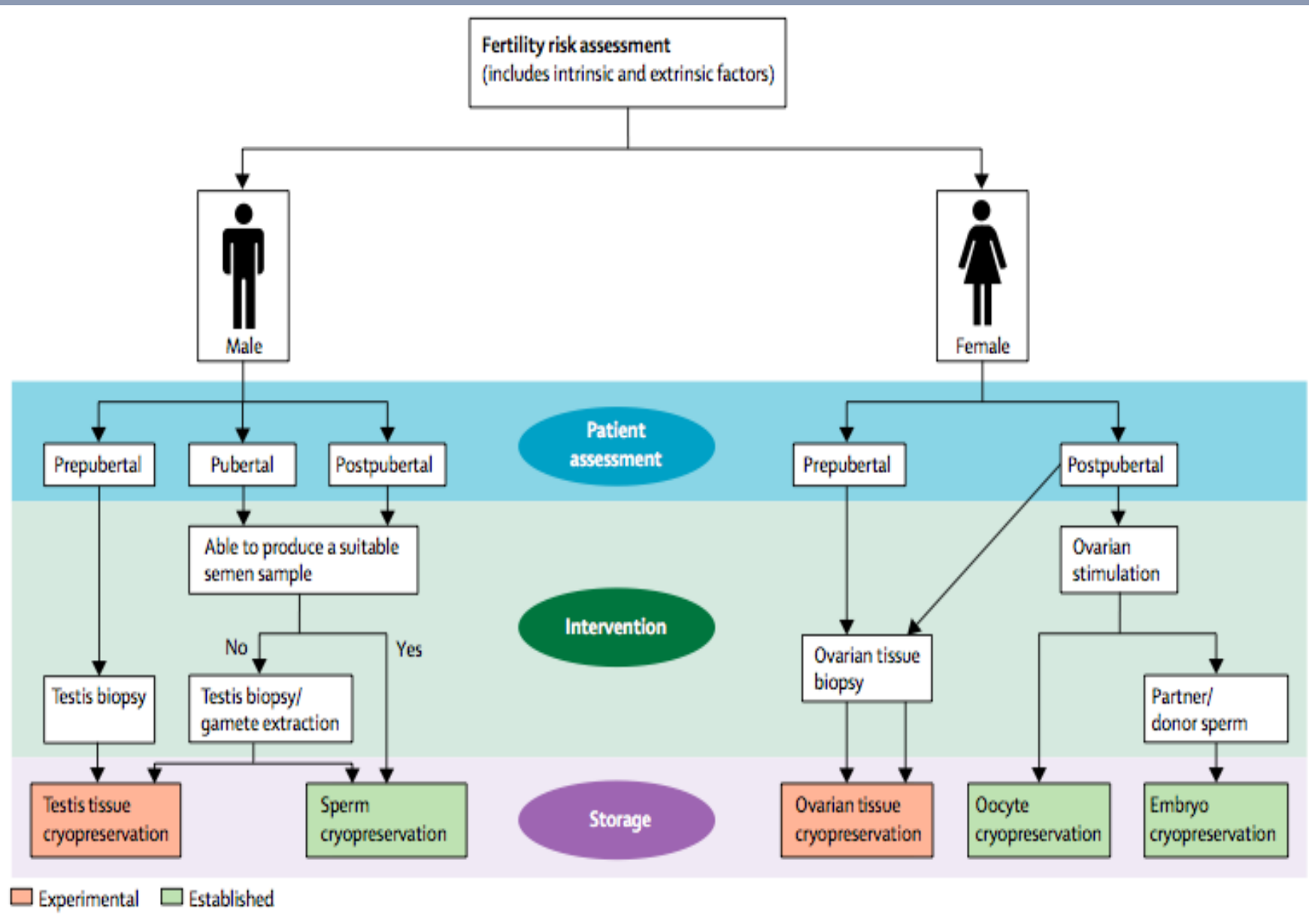
Wallace, Thomson, Kelsey.
(2003) Hum Reprod.



Effective ovarian sterilizing doses of radiotherapy with increasing age



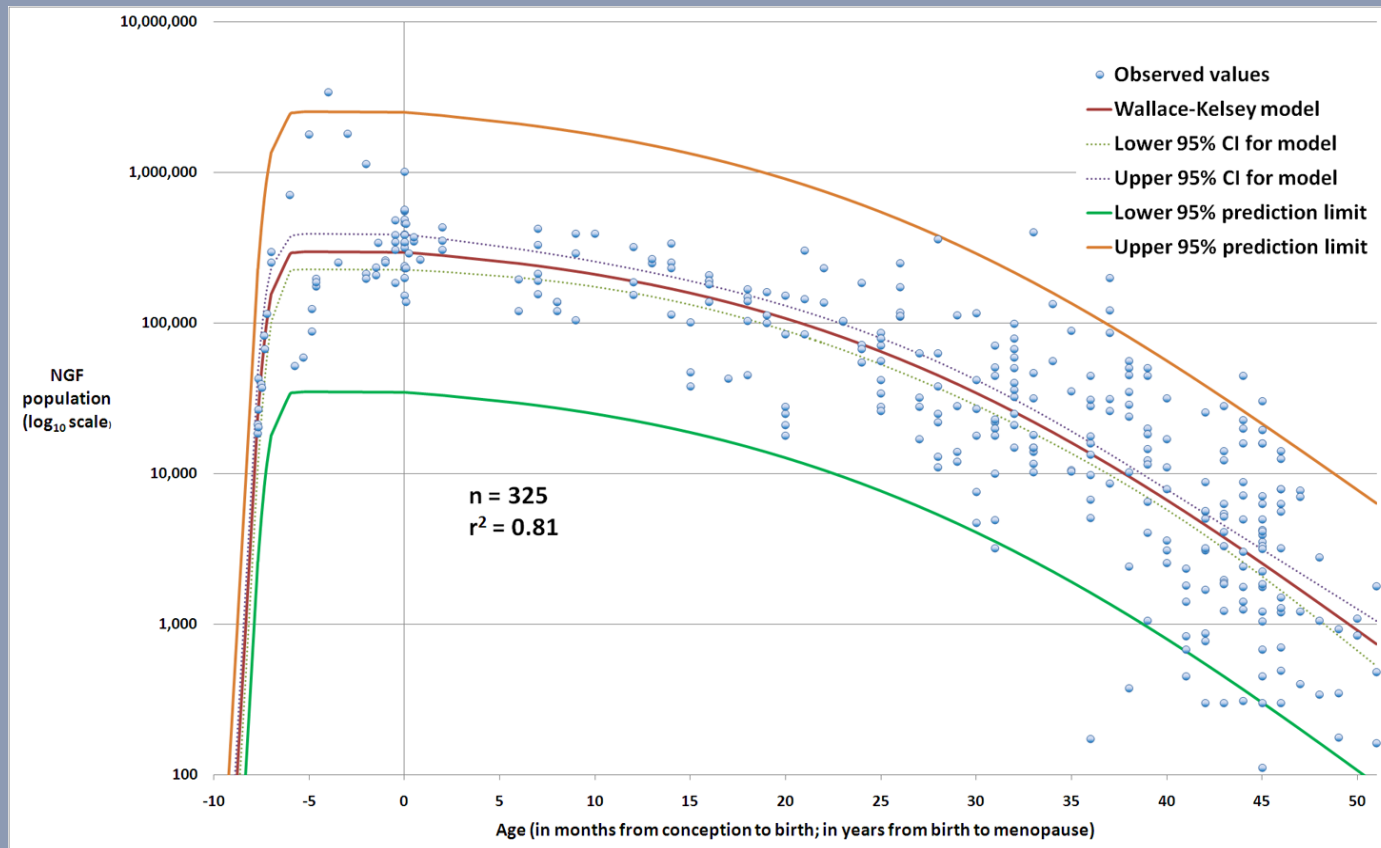
Anderson RA...Wallace WH. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol. 2015



Anderson RA...Wallace WH. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol. 2015

The Wallace-Kelsey Model

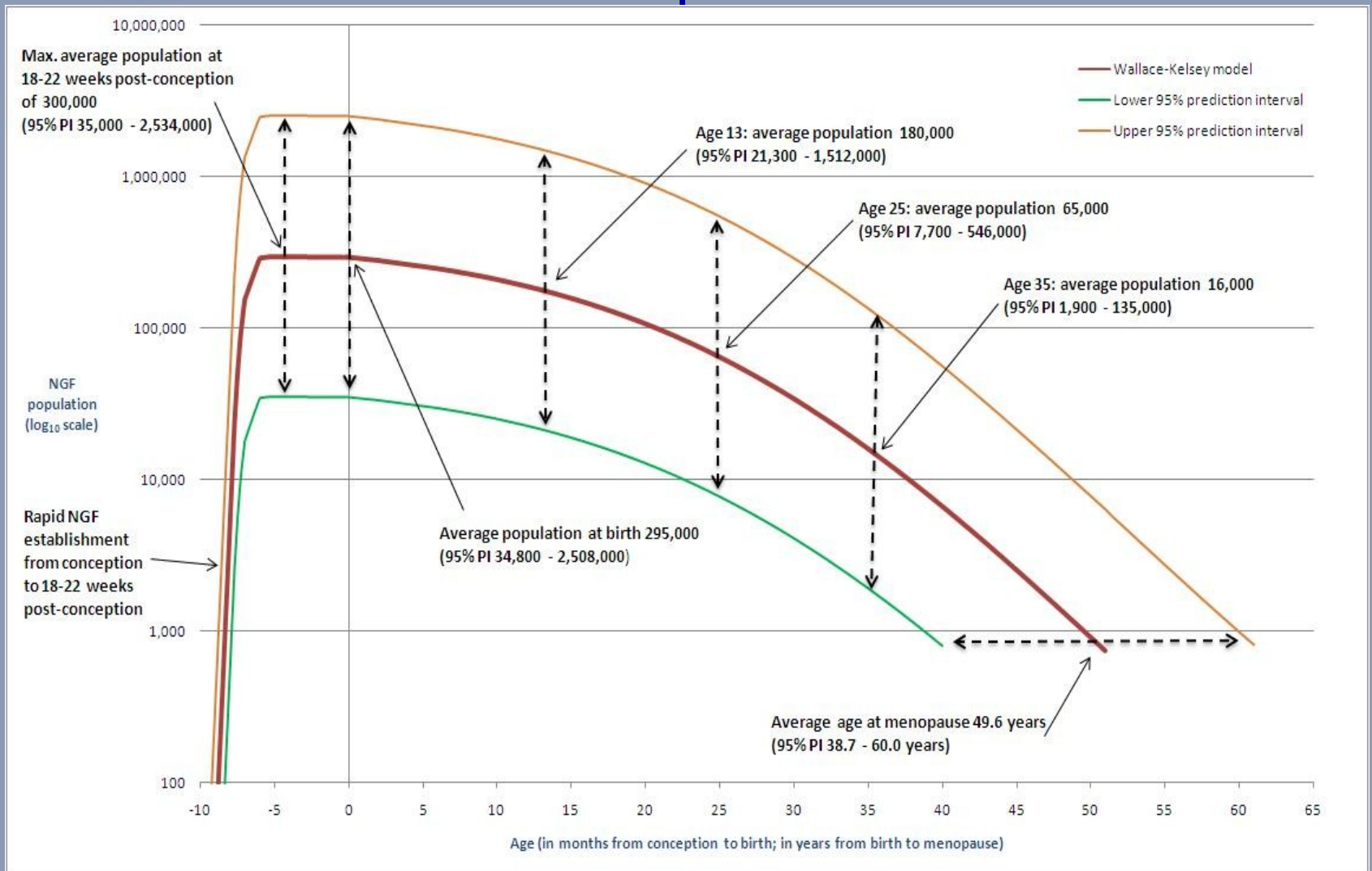
(Five parameter asymmetric double-Gaussian cumulative curve)



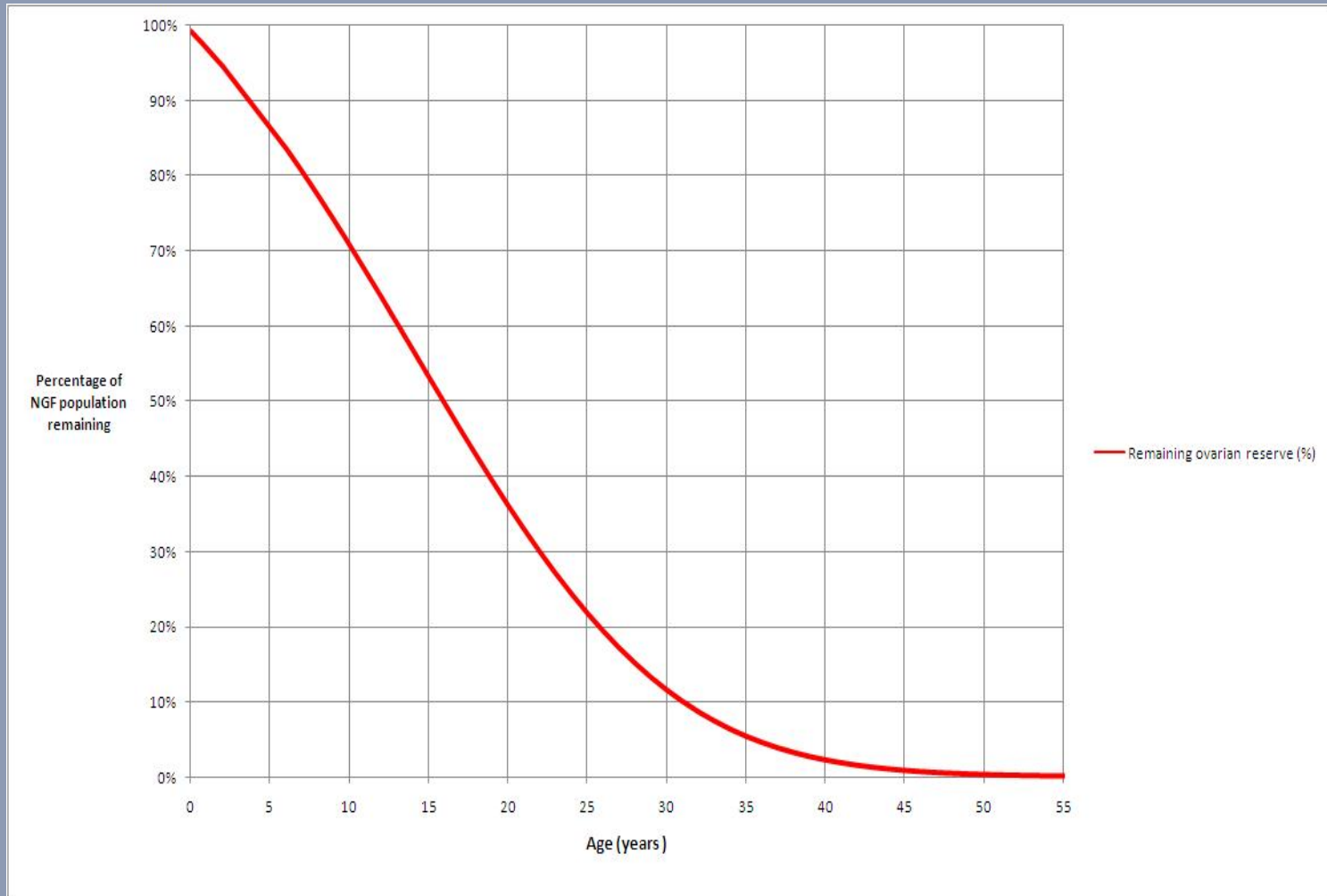
$$\log_{10}(y) = \frac{a}{4} \left[1 + \operatorname{Erf} \left(\frac{x + b + \frac{c}{2}}{d\sqrt{2}} \right) \right] \left[1 - \operatorname{Erf} \left(\frac{x + b - \frac{c}{2}}{e\sqrt{2}} \right) \right]$$

Wallace & Kelsey (2010) PloS ONE

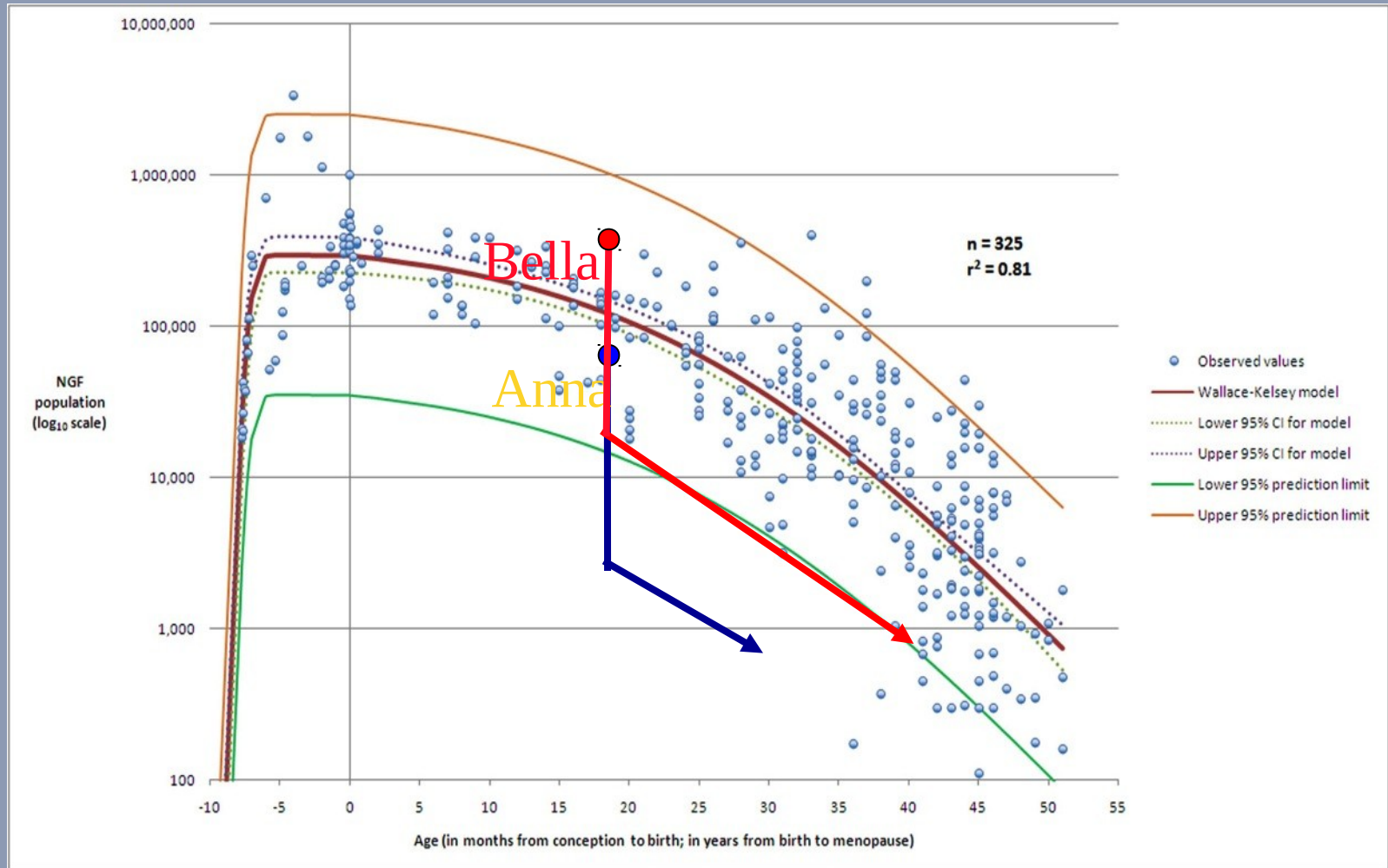
Ovarian reserve: Conception to Menopause



Percentage of NGF population remaining with increasing age



Ovarian reserve: Conception to Menopause



Prediction of Ovarian Reserve (AMH)

Anti Mullerian Hormone (AMH) is an important product of the adult ovary, produced by the granulosa cells of small growing follicles

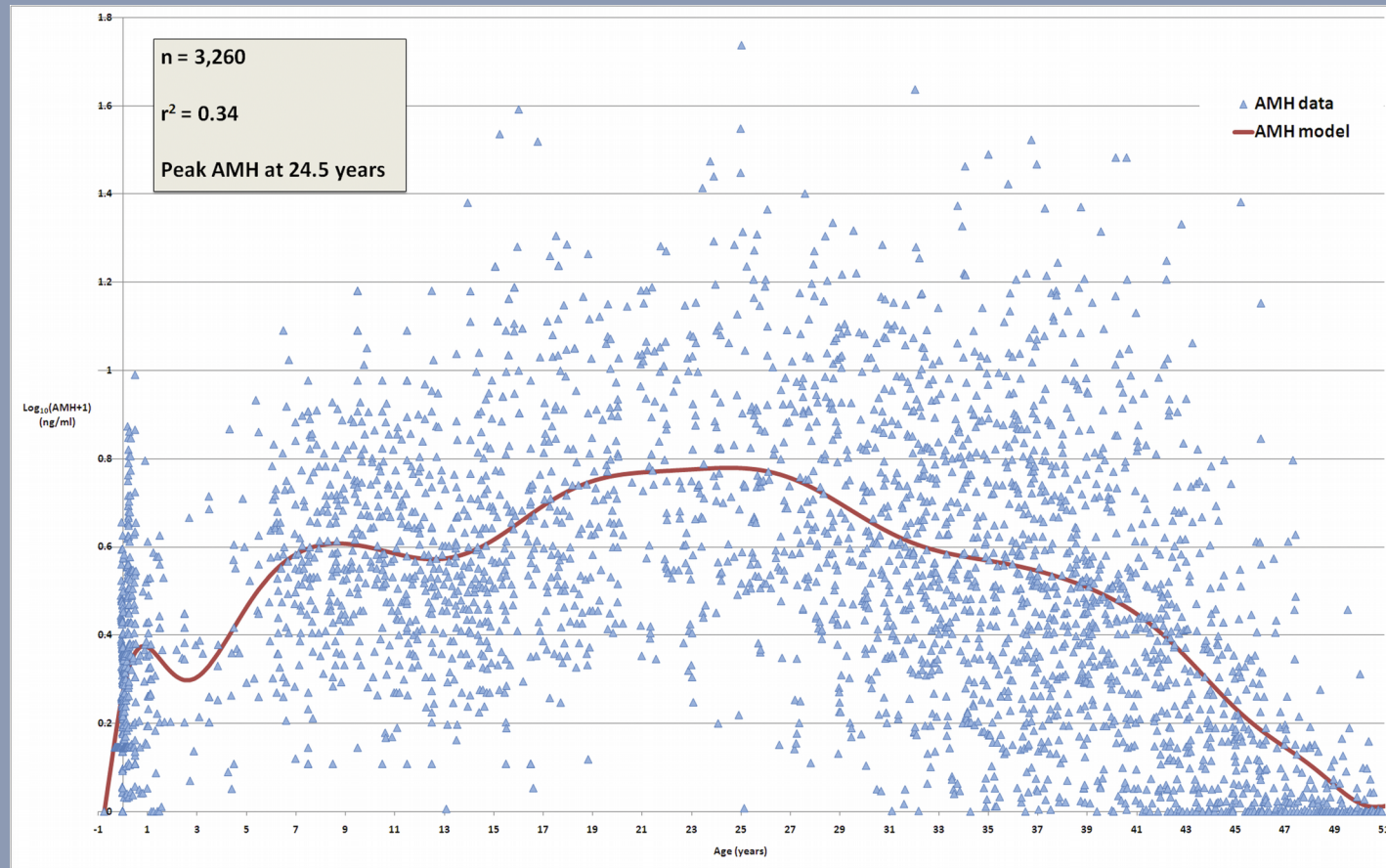
AMH has little variation across and between menstrual cycles

AMH is the best currently available marker of the number of small-growing follicles in the ovary

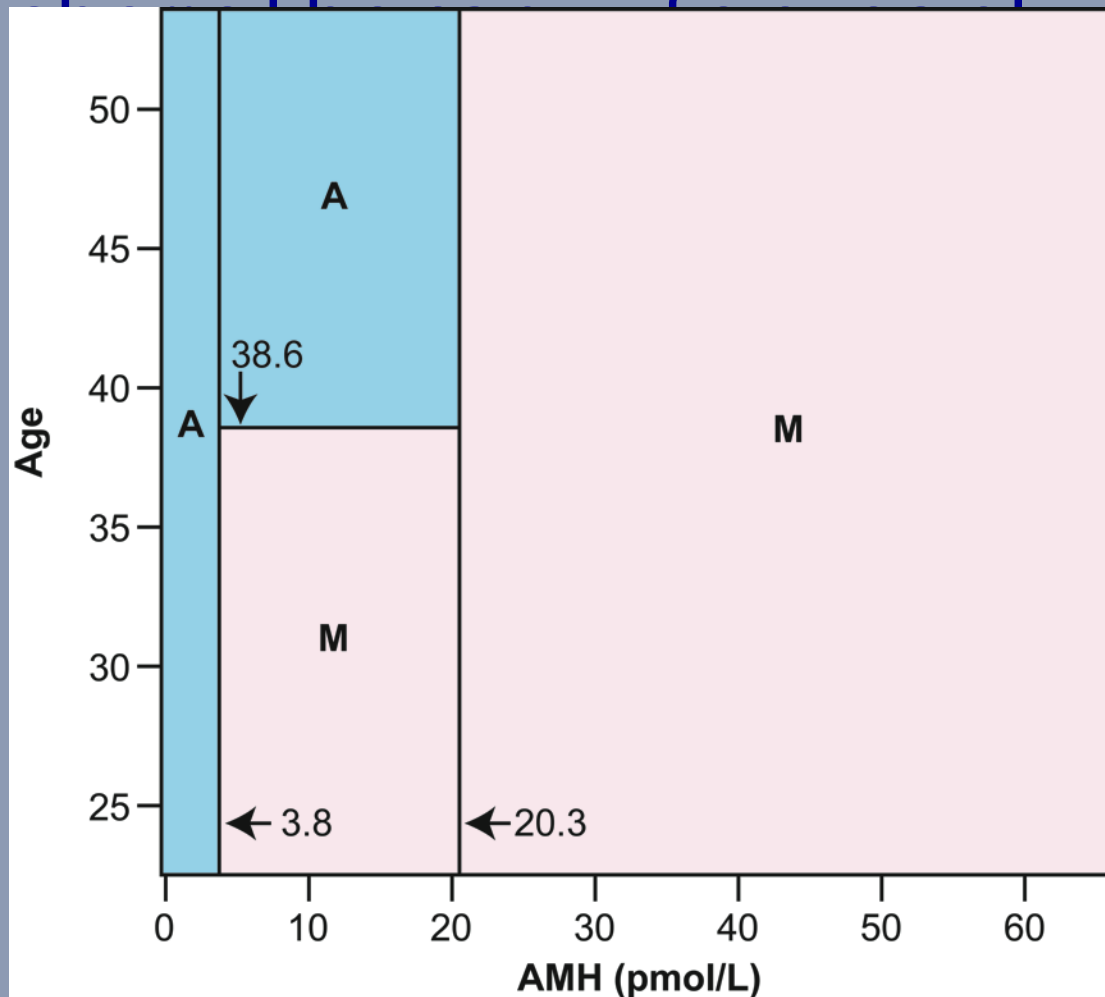
But there was no validated reference model for AMH available

Anderson, Nelson, Wallace (2011) Maturitas

A validated model of serum anti-Mullerian hormone (AMH) from conception to menopause



Pretreatment anti-Müllerian hormone predicts for loss of ovarian function after breast

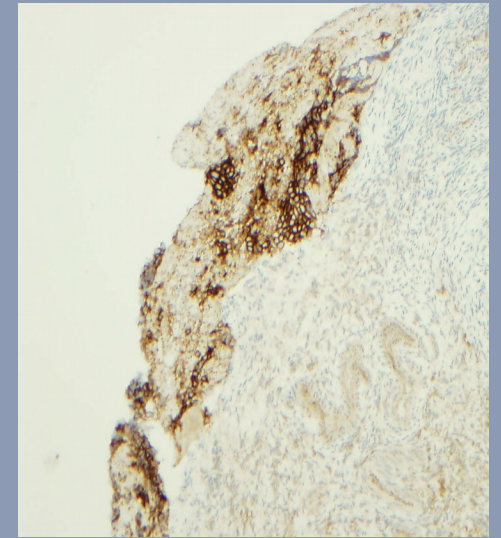
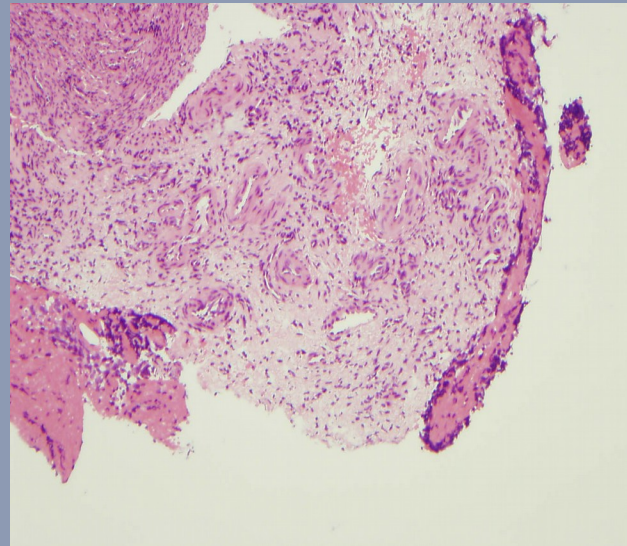
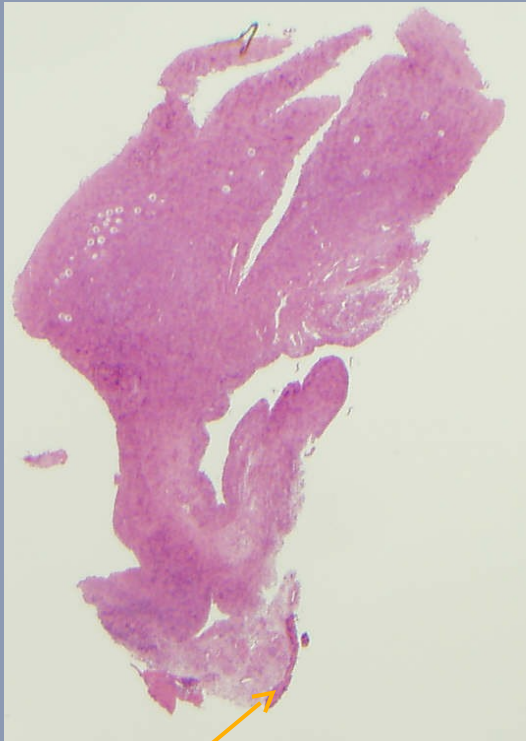


sensitivity 98.2%
specificity 80.0%
for correct classification
of amenorrhoea

n=75

Anderson and Cameron 2011 JCE&M
Anderson et al 2013 Eur J Cancer

Ewings sarcoma localised T 7 Vertebrae (Age 12) – unexpected contamination of ovarian biopsy



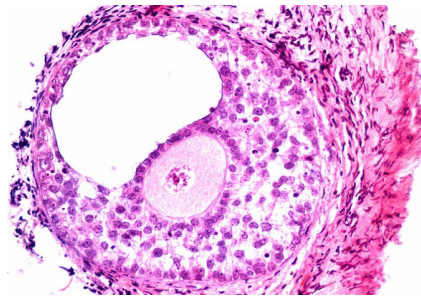
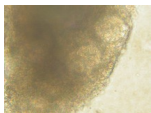
CD99

Re-implantation or IVG and maturation?

Contamination of the cryopreserved tissue with malignant cells, particularly in haematological malignant disease – shown in a rodent lymphoma model – to cause recrudescence of the original disease

Oocyte maturation in vitro, followed by IVF, would eliminate this risk

Antral development from *in vitro* grown human primordial follicles within 10 days



Telfer et al., 2008: A two step serum free culture system supports development of human oocytes from primordial follicles in the presence of activin. **Human Reproduction** 23: 1151-1158



Telfer et al. (2008) Human Reproduction

Challenges

Provide fertility counseling to all young patients with cancer

Cryopreserve ovarian and pre-pubertal testicular tissue from the right (high risk) patients

Define the success rate of the procedures

Develop IVG/M as a safe alternative to re-implantation through basic research