

Sexual Health During and After Cancer Treatment (Male)

We ask you to take special precautions when having sex while receiving these cancer treatments:

- Chemotherapy
- Biotherapy
- Targeted therapies
- Blood stem cell transplant
- Radiation therapy

Pregnancy Prevention

Chemotherapy can result in your sperm being damaged. This could lead to birth defects in a baby, including fetal death. To avoid pregnancy, use a condom. Your partner should use another birth control method as well.

It may harm the baby if you attempt to get pregnant too soon after the end of treatment. Talk to a fertility specialist if you and your partner have questions about your fertility and having children in the future.

Protection of Self

Use a condom when having sex to decrease the risk of a sexually transmitted disease. If your platelet count or white blood cell count is low, avoid all sexual activities until your blood counts are normal.

Low white blood counts increase your risk of infection. Low platelet counts increase your risk for excess bleeding and bruising. This may occur during sexual activity. Avoid oral and anal sex while receiving cancer treatment. The risk of infection and bleeding is higher.

Protection of Your Partner

Chemotherapy, biotherapy and targeted therapy are present in your urine, stool, blood, and semen for at least 48 hours after your last treatment. Protect your partner from being exposed to these bodily fluids during oral, vaginal and anal sex. A condom may provide some protection. Avoiding all sexual activity is the only sure way to protect your partner.

It is safe for you and your partner to share signs of affection and support during your cancer treatment. This can include touching, hugging and kissing.

If you have any questions about your sexual health during and after cancer treatment, ask your doctor or nurse.