

# **The Current Knowledge, Awareness and Practice of Fertility Preservation in Cancer Patients among Reproductive Medicine Practitioners in Malaysia: A Nationwide Survey**

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## **Abstract Body**

FP is in its infancy stage in Malaysia as it officially started in 2020. Therefore our study aimed to assess the current knowledge, awareness, and practice of FP awareness among reproductive medicine clinicians in Malaysia. The cross-sectional study was carried out for six months using a self-administrated questionnaire which were distributed to all reproductive medicine clinicians in Malaysia practicing either in government or private sectors via electronic survey form. About 60/68 participants responded (88.2%), with 98.3% being aware of FP practice among cancer patients. The well-known FP procedure in Malaysia was embryo (EC) and sperm cryopreservation (SC) (67.3%), oocytes cryopreservation (OC) (63.3%), fertility-sparing surgeries (59.2%), and gonadal shielding (GnRH analog) – 46.9%. The last known was ovarian tissue cryopreservation (OTC) – 22.4%. Otherwise, more than half had performed EC (53.3%) and SC (51.1%) over the past 12 months, followed by fertility-sparing surgeries (33.3%) and OC (32.7%); otherwise, only one respondent had done OTC over the past 12 months. At least 38.8% of respondents received 1-5 FP referrals in a year, while 34.7% never received any FP referral. About 20.4% correctly answered regarding no government subsidies for FP and half of them understand that health insurance does not cover FP treatment too. Nevertheless, 97.9% agreed that FP treatment should be available as a public service and recommended that standard educational materials or guidelines be provided to consolidate the engagement of FP among clinicians and patients. Conversely, most of them felt a lack of time to discuss FP treatment prior to cancer treatment (48.9%). Therefore, although the awareness is acceptable, possible cultural or religious issues, and lack of financial support poses a significant challenge to implementing FP treatment in Malaysia.