

**British Fertility Society Comments on NICE draft consultation on Removal, preservation and subsequent reimplantation of ovarian tissue to prevent symptoms from the menopause**

Many thanks for the requesting the British Fertility Society for their comments on this consultation document:

There is no good evidence to show that this procedure will prevent menopausal symptoms or 'delay the menopause'

Given what we know about tissue/graft survival it is likely that multiple surgeries would be required

There is a significant loss of ovarian follicles during freeze-thaw-regraft process (loss of about 40% of follicles) which impacts ovarian reserve. Efficacy therefore depends on age at the time of storage. Also, it is known that grafts taken after the age of 38 are not likely to restore fertility. This would mean removing ovarian tissue in young women which might accelerate the menopause for some young women.

There are multiple pharmacological and non-pharmacological ways to prevent menopausal symptoms that could avoid multiple surgeries (at least two) which carry both surgical and anaesthetic risks.

Hormone replacement therapy is effective for the management of menopausal symptoms and is available on the NHS in the primary and secondary care.

NICE would be better placed evaluating the same technology for the restoration of fertility- some good evidence already

Please note the conclusion from the current BFS guideline (2018): "OTC (Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation) is still not an established treatment and as such, should only be offered by units with relevant clinical and laboratory expertise, protocols and HTA licensing or associated with an established unit using a third-party arrangement. NHS trusts also require local governance requirements to be satisfied before a new procedural technique is introduced."

In the British Fertility Society's opinion, it is inappropriate to undertake this procedure currently outside a research setting.