

Long term freezing of human sperm is frequently desired by men facing the possibility of sterilization, reduction in fertility potential or genetic damage. Specific examples are chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy for male oncology patients, transurethral resection of the prostate, vasectomy or high risk occupational exposure to toxic substances.

How does it work?

Once the need for sperm banking is established by the patient and his physician, the patient contacts our Andrology Coordinator to begin collecting semen specimens as soon as possible. The patient will always decide on the number of visits. It is recommended that 3 - 5 visits be completed for individual semen specimens to be stored in order to optimize chances of pregnancy in the future. Since 2 - 3 days sexual abstinence is recommended between ejaculates, the process will take approximately 1 - 2 weeks. This can be adjusted to accommodate physicians who believe this time frame is too lengthy and/or therapy/surgery must begin sooner.

How is the specimen preserved?

When your specimen is received in our University Andrology Laboratory, a complete semen analysis is performed to determine its fertility potential. A cryobuffer is then added to protect the sperm during the freezing process and the specimen is packaged in 1 ml cryovials. The number of vials will be directly related to the ejaculate volume and will vary with patients and with ejaculates. On the average, 1 - 4 vials will be filled by each specimen. The sperm are then frozen in liquid nitrogen tanks at -196°C (-321°F). Thus, electrical failure will not affect specimen storage. At this low temperature, sperm may be effectively stored for 5 - 10 years.

How well do the sperm survive?

In general, sperm cells freeze very well. In the average man, 60% - 80% of sperm retain motility when thawed. This however, will depend upon the quality of semen and the freezing capability of the individual specimen. Many patients with testicular cancer have reduced sperm number and

motility even before therapy. Poor quality specimens do not freeze as well as normal semen samples.

Protocol for deposit of semen specimen

Schedule a deposit a minimum of one day in advance of your first visit by calling 312/996-7713. Each call will be handled courteously and confidentially by the Andrology Coordinator. You have the choice of visiting our facility or utilizing our OverNiteMale™ Program, which allows you to produce a semen specimen in the privacy of your own home.

On-Site Visit

Our main patient area is located on the west campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Deposits will be accepted during the morning hours, Monday through Friday.

1. Two days of sexual abstinence is recommended between ejaculates to ensure optimal sperm numbers. Therefore, schedule your visits accordingly.
2. The specimen will be produced in a collection room at the sperm bank. This is accomplished by the individual ejaculating directly into a sterile container through manual stimulation (masturbation). If the specimen is produced at home and brought to the clinic, sterile jars provided by the University Andrology Laboratory must be used. Additionally, it is very important for sperm survival that the specimen be kept warm (close to body temperature) and brought to the University Andrology Laboratory immediately (within one hour).
3. At your first visit, you will be asked to complete a patient information form and sign a consent form that constitutes our legal agreement to freeze and store your sperm.

An adequate number of specimens should be collected to assure a sufficient number of vials for future use. This may require 3 - 4 visits to the University Andrology Laboratory Sperm Bank. For scheduling and/or further information regarding our program, please contact our Andrology Coordinator, Mary Coppolillo, at 312/996-7713.



OverNiteMale™ Program

Patients who have difficulty traveling to our office to produce a sample on site can now produce at home and FedEx® their specimen(s) directly to the University Andrology Laboratory using our OverNiteMale™ Kit. This

will necessitate an additional charge. Semen samples are protected during shipment by a transport buffer. This process ensures the safe delivery of your specimen(s) to our laboratory for cryopreservation. To obtain an OverNiteMale™ Kit or for further information, call the Andrology Coordinator at 312/996-7713.

How to attempt pregnancy with frozen sperm?

For specimens with normal count and motility, artificial insemination of thawed sperm into the spouse/partner's cervix is performed by a physician. This will require timed ovulation monitoring during the desired month of conception with 1 - 2 inseminations (1 - 2 vials each) around the time the egg is released. We recommend the use of a specialist in fertility for this procedure since there will be a limited number of attempts at pregnancy.

For specimens with below normal parameters for sperm count and/or motility, special Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) such as In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) or Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) may be necessary. Urologists/Reproductive Endocrinologists (fertility specialists) are available at the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center. The office location of a qualified physician from the University is available through our Andrology Coordinator.

Your cryopreservation results will determine the type of fertility treatment appropriate for you. It is important to learn from your referring physician or from the Sperm Bank the quality of your frozen specimens in order to determine in advance what type of treatment will be most appropriate for your attempt at pregnancy.

Arrangement for the shipment of vials should be done at least one month prior to the time you wish to begin artificial insemination or specialized ART procedures. Alternatively, if you live locally and desire your own physician to perform the procedures, arrangements can be made for local pickup and short-term storage in your physician's office at the time of the spouse/partner's midcycle. If you need your samples shipped to another location in the United States, arrangements can be made to ship your specimens via FedEx®. Please call the Laboratory for further information at least 72 hours in advance.

Laboratory accreditation

The University Andrology Laboratory is Health Care Finance Administration approved, College of Pathologists certified, and meets all Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act regulations. The facility provides all forms of male fertility testing as well as patient sperm banking.

Gail S. Prins, Ph.D., HCLD, Laboratory Director is certified by the American Board of Bioanalysis as a high complexity laboratory director and is a member of the American Association of Tissue Banks, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, and the American College of Pathology.

Location

The Patient Sperm Banking Program is located on the west campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Out-Patient Care Center.

Address is:

Fertility Center
Suite 4A
1801 West Taylor Street
Chicago, IL 60612

When you make your appointment, the Andrology Coordinator will give exact directions to our facility. Parking is available in the Patient Parking garage just south of the building. Public transportation is also available. The CTA Medical District Blue-Line stops directly on our campus.



Method of Payment

The majority of insurance companies, unfortunately, do not cover the cost of cryopreserving (freezing) your specimens. Therefore, payment is due at the time service is rendered. However, our laboratory can provide a receipt with the proper CPT codes to submit to your insurance company for partial or full reimbursement.

Web-Page Address:

Our Andrology Laboratory has an internet webpage: www.uicandrology.com. This web-page will tell you all about all our specialized Andrology testing and sperm banking options.



at Chicago

Patient Sperm Bank Services

for

- **Vasectomy**
- **Chemotherapy**
- **Radiotherapy**
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- **Toxic Exposure**

University Andrology Laboratory
312/996-7713

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