



UZ

LEUVEN

GYNAECOLOGIE EN VERLOSKUNDE  
Leuvens universitair fertiliteitscentrum

[www.uzleuven.be/lufc](http://www.uzleuven.be/lufc) › tel. +32 16 34 36 24

## INFORMATION CONCERNING FREEZING AND PRESERVATION OF UNFERTILISED EGGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING INFERTILITY (ONCOFREEZING)

Dear Madam

This information is intended to explain the procedure of freezing and preservation of unfertilised eggs, so that you can consent in full knowledge of the facts.

You have discussed with your doctor the possibility of having unfertilised eggs frozen (vitrification) as part of the programme that aims to preserve fertility in patients who will be treated for cancer using chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy. These therapies may reduce fertility in women, i.e. they not only destroy malignant cells, but also may affect eggs and their precursors in the ovaries.

Specifically, these frozen unfertilised eggs can be thawed in the fertility lab. Eggs that have survived the freezing and thawing procedure can be fertilised with the (future) partner's sperm. To achieve this, the sperm is injected directly into the egg (ICSI procedure). This technique may lead to fertilisation (and subsequently to parenthood), but this is not guaranteed.

The agreement you will enter into with the Leuven University Fertility Centre (LUFC), concerning the freezing and storage of unfertilised eggs, does not compel either party to proceed with treatment.

Before proceeding with the freezing and preservation of unfertilised eggs aiming to meet the desire to have a child now or in the future, you should sign an agreement in which you indicate the destination of the frozen unfertilised eggs, in keeping with the law of 6 July 2007 on medically assisted reproduction and the use of extra embryos and gametes.

In this agreement, you should indicate the destination of the frozen unfertilised eggs:

- When the stated storage period of the unfertilised eggs has expired.
- In the event that you will permanently be incapable of making decisions or in the event of your death.

You have a choice between following destinations for the frozen unfertilised eggs:

- to relinquish the unfertilised eggs for scientific research (in accordance with the law of 11 May 2003 on research on embryos in vitro);
- to destroy the unfertilised eggs.

By law, the **storage period** for frozen unfertilised eggs is **ten years**. This period starts on the day on which the eggs are frozen.

On explicit request or in special circumstances, the period may be shortened or extended, although this must always be with the agreement of the LUFC. The LUFC may refuse a request to extend the storage period.

Within the agreed period, it is also possible to change the intended destination of the frozen unfertilised eggs in the original agreement. This change of the destination will be included in a new agreement signed by all parties.

A request to modify the agreement must be sent by registered letter to Leuvens universitair fertiliteitscentrum, contractenadministratie, UZ Leuven, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven.

On the expiry of the period, the LUFC will carry out the instructions given by you in this agreement.



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The information relating to relinquishing the unfertilised eggs for scientific research can be found in the attached documents:

- [Information on relinquishing frozen unfertilised eggs for scientific research](#)

In accordance with the law of 6 July 2007, post mortem (after death) insemination of gametes is permitted. Post mortem insemination may take place no sooner than six months and no later than two years after the death of the person who requested storage through freezing. However, it is **not** possible to perform post mortem insemination at the LUFC. If this option is chosen in the agreement, frozen unfertilised eggs can therefore be transferred to a recognised centre for reproductive medicine (Type B) designated by the prospective parents. This centre will be responsible for further storage under the agreed conditions. The prospective parent is responsible for the transfer of the frozen unfertilised eggs.

You will not be charged for the freezing and preservation of eggs. The mandatory Belgian health insurance will cover the full cost in accordance with the RIZIV convention on oncofreezing.

All these documents are intended for you. If you agree to this treatment, you should complete and sign the attached 'Agreement concerning freezing and preservation of unfertilised eggs for the purpose of preventing infertility (oncofreezing)' and return it to LUFC, 'contractenadministratie', UZ Leuven, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven or to [contractenLUFC@uzleuven.be](mailto:contractenLUFC@uzleuven.be).



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## INFORMATION ON RELINQUISHING FROZEN UNFERTILISED EGGS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Dear Madam

This information is intended to explain what scientific research can be carried out with frozen unfertilised eggs that you no longer wish to store for yourself, so that you can consent in full knowledge of the facts for the option 'to relinquish frozen unfertilised eggs for scientific research' as the destination of your frozen unfertilised eggs at the end of the storage period.

This scientific research will be conducted by or in collaboration with the Leuven university fertility centre (LUFC) laboratory.

If this option has been chosen, permission may be withdrawn at any time up to when the scientific research begins. The withdrawal must be communicated by registered letter to the LUFC laboratory, UZ Leuven, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven.

If this option is chosen, the LUFC will have the opportunity to conduct scientific research into the development and application of new techniques in assisted reproductive technology. The use of frozen unfertilised eggs for such research is indispensable.

The following points are important:


- The confidentiality of names and other personal data is strictly guaranteed.
- Any research protocol for which frozen unfertilised eggs may be used has first been approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of UZ Leuven and KU Leuven and/or the Medical Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Medicine (KU Leuven) and by the Federal Commission for medical and scientific research on embryos in vitro.
- The scientific research is in accordance with the law of 11 May 2003 on research on embryo in vitro.
- The scientific research relates to:
  - ◆ the development of new procedures for improving the IVF/ICSI and CRYO programmes.
  - ◆ genetics and epigenetics.
- Participation in these studies will not provide any financial advantages and will not bring any additional costs.
- You give permission for applications for possible patents for any inventions resulting from the research to which you have explicitly consented and waive any claim for compensation on an informed basis.

If you would like more information about this, please contact the laboratory of the LUFC, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven (tel. 016 34 08 12 or email: [fertiliteitscentrum@uzleuven.be](mailto:fertiliteitscentrum@uzleuven.be)).



**AGREEMENT CONCERNING FREEZING AND PRESERVATION OF UNFERTILISED EGGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING INFERTILITY (ONCOFREEZING)**

Between Leuven university fertility centre,  
UZ Leuven,  
represented by  
prof. dr. Karen Peeraer,

 en Ms \* .....  
born on ..... / ..... / .....  
resident at .....  
.....

\* if this person is a minor, the agreement (see Art. 12 of the Belgian law dated 22 August 2002) is concluded between the LUFC and the parents or guardian with authority over the minor. If you are a minor when this contract is signed, you will be offered a new contract when you reach maturity.

hereinafter 'the LUFC', on the one hand,

hereinafter the patient, on the other hand,

the following has been agreed:

- The patient declares that she has received, read and understood the document entitled 'Information concerning the freezing and preservation of unfertilised eggs for the purpose of preventing infertility (oncofreezing)'. She consents to the freezing and preservation of her unfertilised eggs by the LUFC, with a view to fulfil a future wish to have children. She is aware of the implications of the freezing and preservation of the unfertilised eggs and understands that the current scientific evidence clearly demonstrates that such preservation does not offer any guarantee with respect to successful thawing, ripening and fertilisation of eggs in the future.
- The LUFC will take due care in the freezing and preservation of the unfertilised eggs. The LUFC is not liable for the loss of preserved unfertilised eggs in cases of force majeure (such as fire, theft, power cuts or other external causes).
- The patient declares that she has received all the necessary information regarding the circumstances and duration of the storage of her unfertilised eggs when the stated period comes to expire. By law, the storage period for unfertilised eggs frozen with a view to fulfilling a current or future desire to have children is ten years. This period starts on the day on which the unfertilised eggs are frozen. On the expiry of this period, the LUFC will carry out the instructions given by the patient in this agreement.
- The patient acknowledges that she will not be charged for the freezing and preservation of eggs. The mandatory Belgian health insurance will cover the full cost in accordance with the RIZIV convention on oncofreezing.
- On explicit request of the patient or in special circumstances, the period can be shortened or extended, although this must always be with the agreement of the LUFC. It is also possible to make changes to the original agreement as regards the intended destination of the unfertilised eggs, unless the storage period for the frozen unfertilised eggs has expired in the meantime. A request by the patient to change the period or to modify the agreement must be sent by registered letter to Leuvens universitair fertiliteitscentrum, contractenadministratie, UZ Leuven, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven.
  - ◆ The LUFC may refuse a request to extend the storage period. In this case, the instruction indicated by the patient in this agreement will be carried out.



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## AGREEMENT CONCERNING FREEZING AND PRESERVATION OF UNFERTILISED EGGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING INFERTILITY (ONCOFREEZING)

- The patient declares that she has received sufficient explanation about the possible options for the destination of the frozen unfertilised eggs.
  - ♦ In the event of 'relinquishing frozen unfertilised eggs for scientific research' the patient expressly agrees to relinquish her frozen unfertilised eggs to the LUFC for scientific research that has been approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of UZ Leuven and KU Leuven and/or the Medical Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Medicine (KU Leuven) and by the Federal Commission for medical and scientific research on embryos in vitro. This research is in accordance with the law of 11 May 2003 on research on embryos in vitro. The patient declares that she has received, read and understood the 'Information on relinquishing frozen unfertilised eggs for scientific research'.
  - ♦ In the event of 'destruction of the frozen unfertilised eggs' the LUFC will destroy the frozen unfertilised eggs without any intervention other than that necessary for destruction.
- The patient declares that she is aware that post mortem (after death) insemination of gametes is not performed at the LUFC. If the patient has chosen in the agreement to store her frozen unfertilised eggs with a view to fulfilling a future desire to have children if she passes away, there is the possibility of transferring the frozen unfertilised eggs to a recognised centre for reproductive medicine (Type B). This centre will be responsible for further storage of the unfertilised eggs under the agreed conditions.
- In case the patient will develop symptoms of a possible COVID-19 infection (fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle pain, sore throat, diarrhea) or if a COVID-10 infection has been proven within 14 calendar days after freezing of oocytes, she agrees to immediately report this to the LUFC. The patient consents to follow up of these symptoms by a physician or midwife within 14 calendar days after freezing.



Madam's initials



\*if a minor

Parents' or Guardian's initials



**AGREEMENT CONCERNING FREEZING AND PRESERVATION OF UNFERTILISED EGGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING INFERTILITY (ONCOFREEZING)**

- The patient declares that she has taken the following decision relating to the destination of her frozen unfertilised eggs. She wishes to:

**Destination of frozen unfertilised eggs**

Indicate your decision under A, B and C:

A. On the expiry of the stated period (tick one box only):

- relinquish these eggs for scientific research \*
- destroy these eggs


B. In the event that the patient is permanently incapable of making decisions (tick one box only):

- relinquish these eggs for scientific research \*
- destroy these eggs

C. In the event that the patient passes away (tick one box only):

- relinquish these eggs for scientific research \*
- destroy these eggs
- store these eggs with a view tot he later fulfillment of a child wish (post mortem insemination by means of transportation to a recognised centre for reproductive medicine (type B)).

\* If the eggs will not be suitable for scientific research or an abundant number of eggs will be available for scientific research, these eggs may not be used for scientific research purposes and may be discarded.

Drawn up in duplicate in Leuven on  ...../...../....., one copy being intended for the LUFC and the other for the patient.

Name Madam

\*if a minor, Parents' or Guardian's name

.....

.....

born on ..... / ..... / .....

born op ...../...../.....

prof. dr. Karen Peeraer  
Administrator Tissue Bank LUFC



Read and approved  
signature Ms.



\*if a minor  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

Please complete and sign this agreement and return it to Leuvens universitair fertiliteitscentrum, 'contractenadministratie', UZ Leuven, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven or [contractenLUFC@uzleuven.be](mailto:contractenLUFC@uzleuven.be).