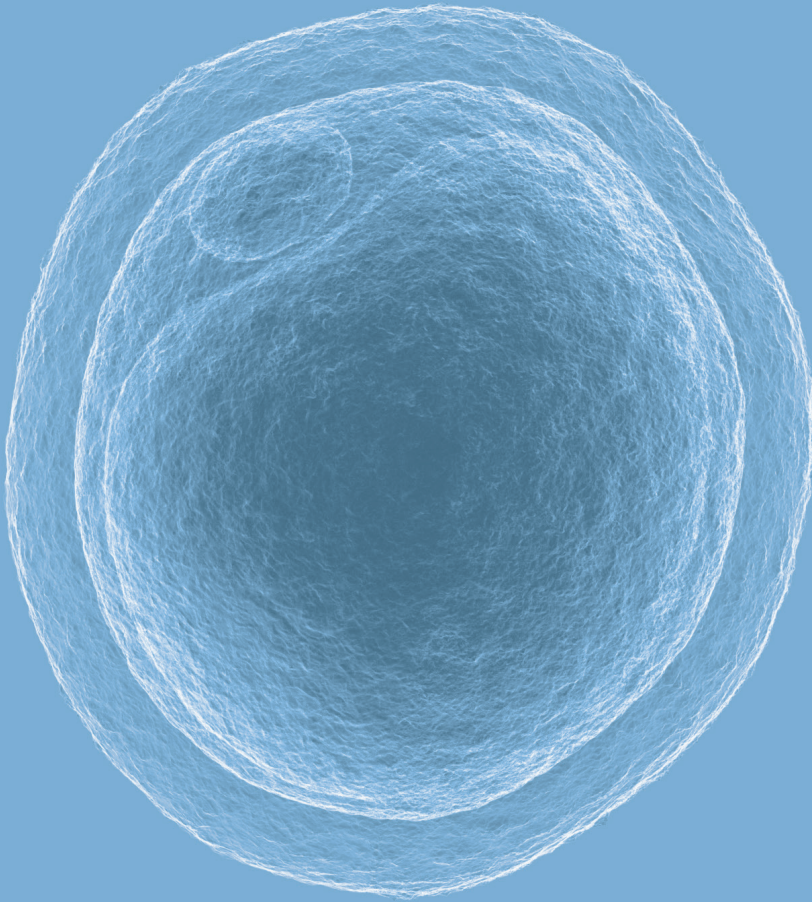


Younger



Freezing your eggs?

Information about the procedure of
retrieving and freezing a section of an
ovary.

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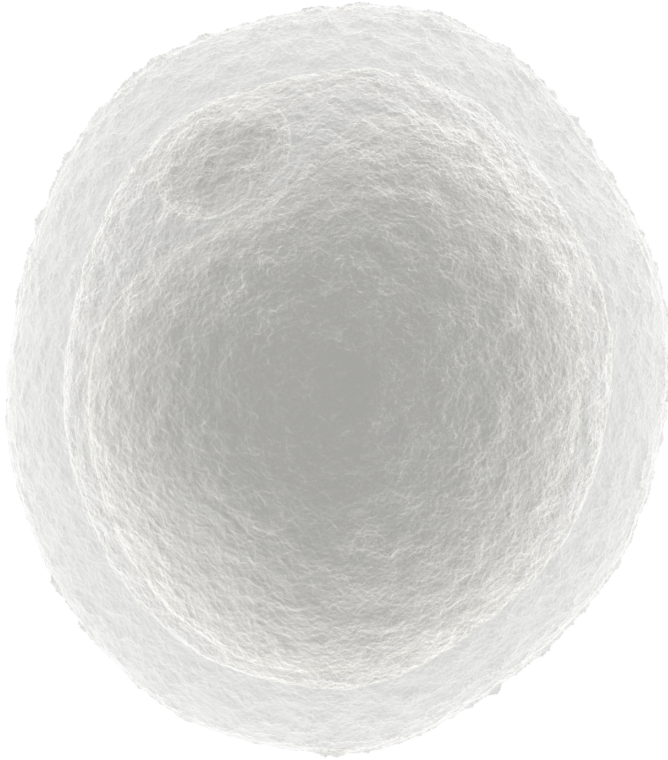
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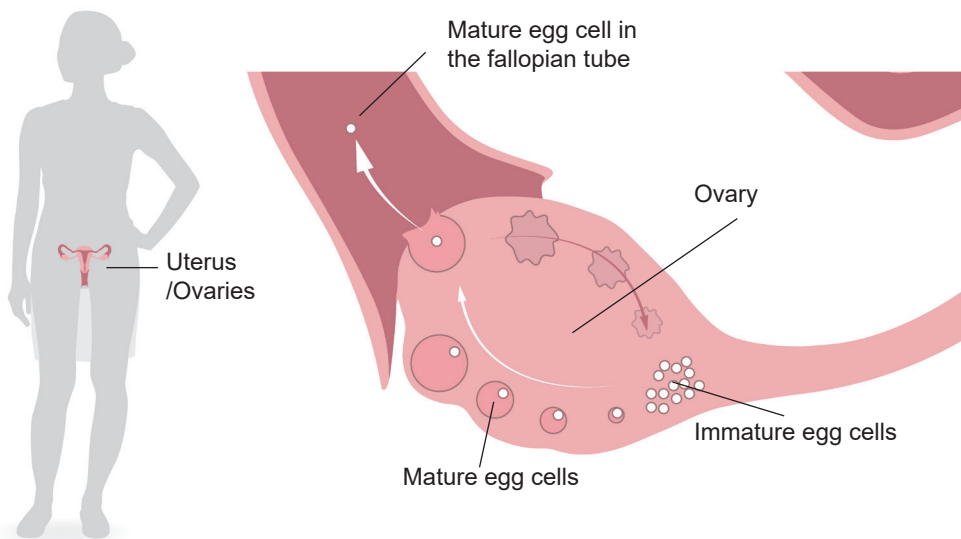
Why would I freeze my eggs?

You are about to undergo treatment for your illness that will help you to become healthy.

The treatment may destroy your eggs. It may be difficult to get pregnant when you are older.

It is possible to freeze and store your eggs before the treatment. You can then use them later in life. The eggs are stored in a special freezer at the hospital.

It is not certain that you will be able to have children later using your frozen eggs. But freezing them gives you a better chance of getting pregnant with your own eggs than if you don't.



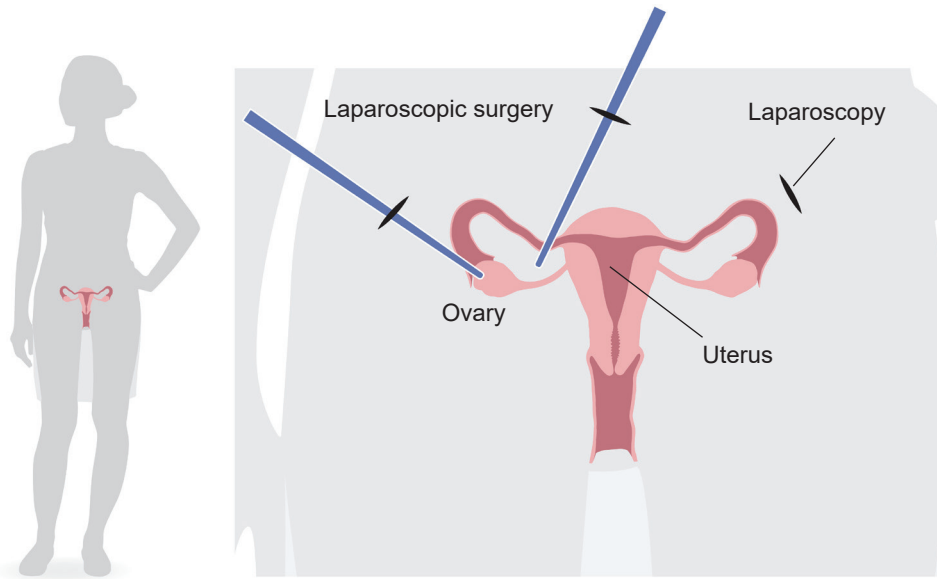
Enlarged image of one ovary and the location of the egg cells during the different stages of maturity.

How does the process work?

The eggs are found in the ovaries in the lower part of the abdomen. All the eggs are already there when you are born, but are not mature. When you get your first period, this means that the eggs have started to mature. Eggs that have begun to mature can be removed and frozen, following a few weeks of hormone treatment.

If you have not got your period yet, or if you need to start your treatment immediately and do not have time for hormone treatment, a section of your ovary or the entire ovary can instead be removed and stored. The ovary contains immature eggs. When you get older, the small section of ovary can be reinserted and the eggs can mature.

Taking out an ovary or a section of an ovary is not dangerous and does not hurt. But it may still be hard for you. If you are worried and think it seems unpleasant, please say so. A doctor or other staff member will explain and help as much as they can. If you say when something feels strange, the staff will understand better how they can help you.



How is a section of the ovary removed?

You will be sedated and will not feel anything. A small section of your ovary is removed through an operation known as laparoscopic surgery. The doctor uses a thin needle to take out a section of the ovary.

After the operation you will wake up and stay a while at the hospital until you feel energised again. An adult can be with you both when you are sedated and when you wake up. If you feel sick or have a pain after the operation, you will be given medicine.

The healthcare staff will ensure that the section of ovary is stored in a freezer at the hospital. It will be kept there until you are an adult and want to use it to try to get pregnant.

What happens next?

When you are older and want to try to have children, you meet with a doctor and talk about the possibilities of using your frozen eggs. It is not certain that they can be used. It may also be the case that you have eggs in your ovary that have not been destroyed by the treatment. The doctor will examine you and your eggs and talk about the options available.

If you have a section of ovary in the freezer, this will be reinserted into your body through an operation. When the eggs have matured they can be fertilised. This is often done through in vitro fertilisation.

There are also other ways to become a parent besides using your own eggs. You can, for example, adopt children or obtain an egg from someone else through an egg donation.

Would you like more information?

There is a short film aimed at young people who are saving their eggs. This can be found at www.vavnad.se under the heading **Könsceller**.

At www.1177.se you can find information on cancer, on fertility during cancer treatment and on treatments in the event of involuntary childlessness.

Notes



The brochure is produced by the Värnadsrådet working group UNGA Värnadsrådet. The Swedish national council for organs, tissues, cells and blood is an advisory forum within the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) and works with national coordination and uniform procedures within the area.

