MANAGING CHEMOTHERAPY SIDE EFFECTS:
SEXUAL AND FERTILITY CHANGES IN WOMEN

Ask What Changes You May Have:
Talk to your doctor or nurse before treatment starts to learn what sexual changes or changes to your fertility you may have.

The changes you may have depend on the kind of chemotherapy you’ll be getting and the type of cancer you have. Your age and other health issues are also important.

Questions From Women About Sexual Problems:

What Sexual Problems Might I Have?
You might have:
- Dryness or itchy feeling in the vagina
- Hot flashes
- Infections of the vagina or bladder
- Periods that are not regular or no periods

Talk with your doctor or nurse to learn how to manage these changes. Ask how they can be treated and how long these problems may last.

How Can I Get Help to Cope?
Be open and honest with your partner. Talk about your feelings and concerns. Find new ways to show love and be close. It may also help to talk with a doctor, nurse, social worker, counselor, or people in a support group.

Do I Need to Use Birth Control?
Yes, all women who have not gone through menopause should use birth control, or their partner should use a method of birth control. Talk with your doctor or nurse to learn what you should do. Don’t get pregnant during treatment, because it can harm the unborn baby (fetus).

Question From Women About Changes in Fertility:
Will I Be Able to Have Children After Treatment?
If you would like to have children, talk with your doctor before you start treatment. Your doctor can talk with you about your choices and refer you to a fertility specialist.

Talk with Your Doctor or Nurse to Learn About Special Instructions to Follow.