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EDITOR'S CHOICE

Editor's Choice: Fertility after cancer, these are promising times

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We publish a record of six papers on reproductive epidemiology this month. I selected one.

In Scotland, like in Scandinavia, linkage of national databases offers the opportunity to study whether women achieve pregnancy after a cancer diagnosis on a population basis. Richard Anderson and co-workers (Anderson *et al.*, 2018) made use of this. They show that nowadays cancer has less negative impact on the chance of a subsequent pregnancy in young women than 20–30 years ago. This goes for some key cancers like cervical cancer, breast cancer and Hodgkin lymphoma. There has, however, not been an improvement in the impact of other cancers, notably leukaemia and brain/central nervous system cancer. These data quantify the impact of cancer on the chance of becoming pregnant. They highlight the need for interventions to protect fertility in girls and young women with cancer, and to support them if they consider pregnancy once their treatment is completed.

Reference

Anderson RA, Brewster DH, Wood R, Nowell S, Fischbacher C, Kelsey TW, Wallace WHB. The impact of cancer on subsequent chance of pregnancy: a population-based analysis. *Hum Reprod* 2018;**33**: 1281–1290.