RESULTS OF A TEMPORARY DISCOUNTED EGG FREEZING CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO PLANNED OOCYTE CRYOPRESERVATION

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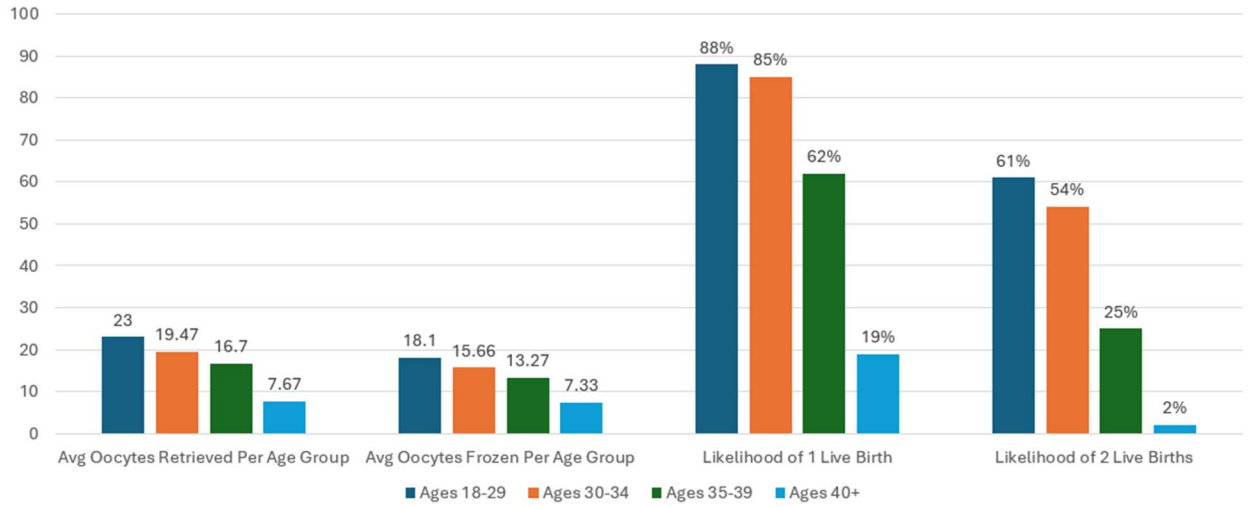
Background
The rate of planned oocyte preservation has continued to increase; however, cost remains a significant barrier in access, particularly for young women under age 35. Market surveys have suggested that the true cost for egg freezing far exceeds that which is feasible for the majority of individuals in this age range.

Objective
To assess the characteristics and cycle outcomes of individuals who underwent fertility preservation during a discounted egg freezing campaign.

Materials and Methods
This is a retrospective review of oocyte cryopreservation cycles performed at ten HRC Fertility sites across Southern California as part of the HRC Fertility Egg Freezing Campaign between 7/2023 and 9/2024. Patients were eligible for significantly discounted pricing between $4,500-7,500 if they had an AMH ≥ 2.0 or AFC ≥ 10 and a BMI < 40. Patient demographic data and cycle outcomes, including total number of retrievals and oocyte yield were collected. Patients were grouped by age as 18-29, 30-34, 35-39, and ≥40.The chance of live birth was calculated for each age group using a published model based on autologous ICSI cycle outcomes performed for tubal or male factor infertility.

Results
During the 14-month campaign, a total of 670 oocyte preservation cycles were completed. The median age of the cohort was 35 years [IQR 33-36]. 39 (6.8%) patients aged 18-29 underwent 42 (6.3%) cycles, 229 (39.8%) patients aged 30-34 underwent 254 (37.9%) cycles, 304 (52.8%) patients aged 35-39 underwent 371 (55.4%) cycles, and only 3 (0.5%) patients aged ≥ 40 underwent 3 (0.4%) cycles. 83 patients (14.4%) underwent multiple cycles; these patients were significantly older (35.26 years vs 34.08 years, p=0.009) than those who only underwent one cycle**.** Figure 1 illustrates the number of oocytes retrieved and number of oocytes cryopreserved per retrieval for each age group as well as the associated likelihood of 1 or 2 live births anticipated with each retrieval. Oocyte maturity was 75% for the whole cohort and did not vary significantly by age group.



Conclusions
Nearly half of all patients who underwent egg freezing during the campaign were under age 35. Offering a discounted, all-inclusive package for planned oocyte preservation may be a useful tool to broaden access to care for individuals who otherwise would not utilize these services due to financial barriers.

Support
Not applicable

References:

1. Johnston, Molly et al. “A major increase in oocyte cryopreservation cycles in the USA, Australia and New Zealand since 2010 is highlighted by younger women but a need for standardized data collection.” *Human reproduction (Oxford, England)* vol. 36,3 (2021): 624-635. doi:10.1093/humrep/deaa320

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