

FERTILITY PRESERVATION COUNSELLING TRENDS FOR YOUNG FEMALE CANCER PATIENTS IN SEVEN REFERRAL CENTRES IN ITALY FROM 2015 TO 2021

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Background:

Fertility preservation (FP) is crucial in cancer care. Despite growing awareness, access to FP counselling remains limited in Italy.

Objective:

To assess FP counselling trends from 2015 to 2021 among women aged 15–39, across four cancer categories (breast cancer, ovarian cancer, onco-haematological malignancies, other solid malignancies).

Methods:

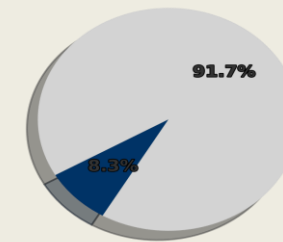
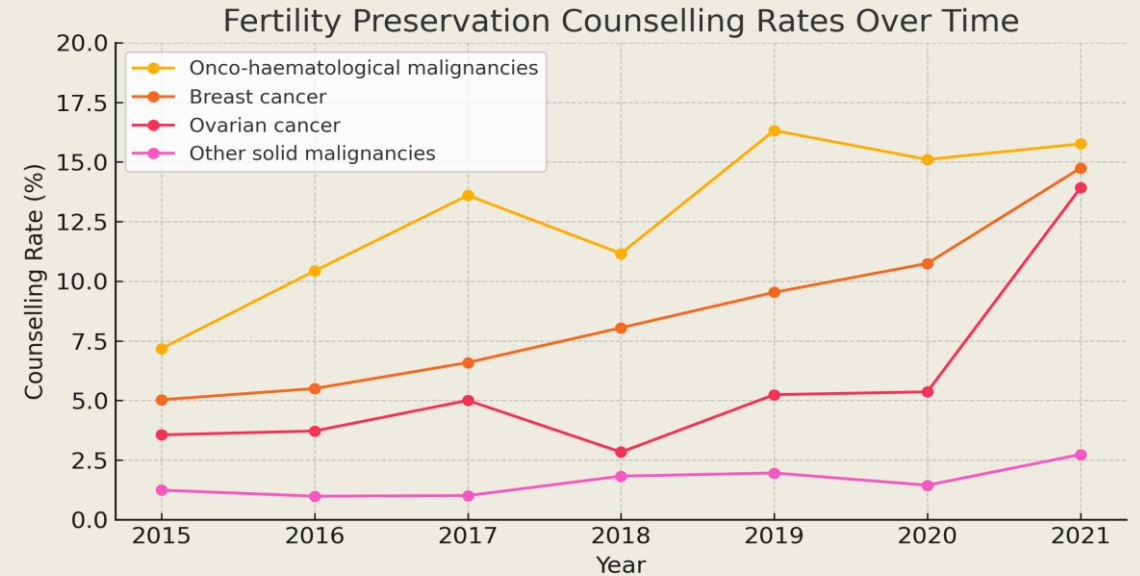
Data on the incidence of neoplasms were obtained from the **Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Results Tool**, which currently provides estimates up to 2021. Accordingly, the analysis focuses on the 2015–2021 interval. Data on FP counselling sessions were extracted from the **Italian Assisted Reproductive Technology Registry (IARTR)**, known as **PreFerIta**, which collects data from seven specialized ART centres across Italy on **both oocyte and ovarian tissue cryopreservation**.

Results (counselling rates, 2015–2021):

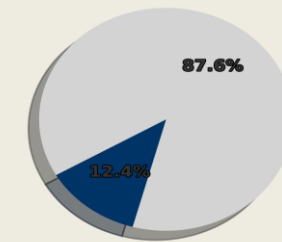
- Breast cancer: 5% → 14.7%
- Onco-haematological: ↑ to 15.7%
- Ovarian cancer: variable; peaked at 13.9%
- Other tumours: consistently <3%
- 'Relative Gap' highlights persistent under-counselling.

Conclusion:

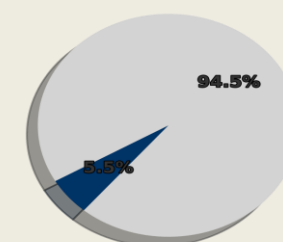
Despite measurable improvements, significant gaps persist. Standardized referral pathways, equity-driven strategies, and structured provider training are urgently needed.



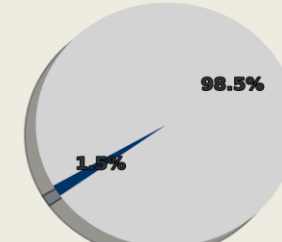
Breast cancer



Onco-haematological malignancies



Ovarian cancer



Other solid malignancies

■ Counselling ■ Not counselling