

## Reproductive Health Issues in People with Galactosemia

### Ovary Preservation and Harvesting:

#### Options for Females with Galactosemia

The majority of girls/women who have classic galactosemia experience premature ovarian failure. However, there are women with classic galactosemia who have successfully conceived and given birth. Women like you, whose ovaries may stop working before you are ready to have a child, currently have two options to preserve your fertility:

**Egg freezing:** After taking drugs to stimulate the growth of several eggs, the eggs are removed from your ovaries and frozen. When you want to become pregnant the eggs are thawed, fertilized with sperm and the resulting embryo(s) is placed back into your womb (uterus). The chance of pregnancy per thawed egg is approximately 5% (although multiple eggs would be thawed). And the overall live birth rate is 27%. The cost is approximately \$5000.00, plus a yearly storage fee.

**Ovarian tissue freezing:** A small piece of your ovary is removed and frozen. When you want to become pregnant the tissue is thawed and placed back into your body. Only a few pregnancies have been achieved using this technique so far, but the science is advancing quickly. The cost is approximately \$500.00.

Should these options not be suitable in your situation alternative measures to start your family are available in the way of adoption of children from Canada or abroad. Also the use of a surrogate is an option, wherein a woman (the surrogate mother) bears a child for a couple unable to conceive children.

For more information about assisted reproduction please contact the UBC Fertility Clinic at 604-875-2445 or visit the website at [www.ubcfertility.com](http://www.ubcfertility.com)