



Smilow Cancer Hospital **Sexuality and Intimacy Program**

The Sexuality and Intimacy Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital is the only clinic of its kind in the country: By combining both medical and psychological interventions, it is designed to help men and women who experience sexual dysfunction after cancer. Sexual dysfunction after cancer is common, however, sexual side effects often go untreated after having successfully treated a patient's cancer. Our doctors look to manage not only the physical issues, but also any psychological concerns that may arise.

The collaboration between physicians treating men and women allows the practice to help couples as well as individuals, with an emphasis on individual relationships. Founded by Dr. Elena Ratner, Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences and Co-Chief for the Section of Gynecologic Oncology, and Dr. Mary Jane Minkin, Clinical Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences, the clinic began nearly a decade ago. Dr. Stanton Honig, Clinical Professor of Urology and Director of the Yale Urology Men's Health Program, collaborates to provide comprehensive care.

Psychologist Dwain Fehon, PsyD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Chief Psychologist of Psychiatric Services at Yale New Haven Hospital, is a vital member of the team. He and his staff provide essential emotional care that helps improve relationships and personal health.

For Women

Many women have concerns related to intimacy and menopause because of cancer surgery or treatment. By combining medical and psychological interventions, our program is designed to help women who experience sexual or menopausal side effects due to cancer treatment. Drs. Ratner, Minkin, and Fehon consult with patients to address the difficult physical and emotional aspects of cancer care and treatment, and to create a personalized care plan for each patient.

We have developed a unique focus on menopause management for cancer survivors and "previvors," healthy women who have their breasts or ovaries removed because of a genetic risk of developing cancer.

What types of patients do we see?

Women who experience:

- Changes in sexual function as a result of chemotherapy, radiation, or surgery for cancer
- Menopause symptoms as a side effect of their cancer treatment
- Early menopause or sexual changes after surgery for cancer risk reduction

For Men

In men, prostate cancer and bladder cancer treatments are most likely to affect sexuality. Cancer and its treatments can limit male fertility. Dr. Honig works with patients and their physicians to help minimize these effects, reclaim their sex lives after cancer, and preserve male fertility. He has more than 20 years of experience in treating male infertility and sexuality after cancer, using both medical and surgical therapy. When medical treatments prove ineffective, Dr. Honig can offer safe and effective ways to restore sexual function.

What we provide

- Penile implants for erectile dysfunction
- Treatment for Peyronie's Disease
- Sperm retrieval and other treatment for male infertility
- Male fertility preservation
- Penile rehabilitation for prostate and bladder cancers
- Treatment for low testosterone

We encourage couples to come together to discuss these intimate issues.

Make Your Appointment:

For Women:

Patient appointments available on Thursdays

New Appointments: (203) 785-7385

Main Clinic Number: (203) 200-4176

For Men:

New Appointments: (203) 785-2815



Elena Ratner, MD and Stanton Honig, MD