CHEMOTHERAPY often forces young cancer victims into early menopause, but a new drug reduces the risk, doubling a woman’s chances of getting pregnant after treatment.

Injected monthly, the medicine called goserelin works by disrupting the hormonal system and basically putting a woman’s ovaries into “hibernation” until they’re needed, explains Dr. Kathy Albain, of Loyola University Medical Center.

The hole heals quickly and is almost undetectable in a day or so.

Chao says his method replaces the old technique where “Dentists would have to remove tissue from the roof of the mouth and then graft it into the area where the gum had moved away from the tooth.

“This can be a very painful and tedious procedure that requires a lot of downtime afterward.”

The American Dental Association says half of Americans between the ages of 18 and 65 already have receding gums. But the number of patients who have tried gum graft surgery is relatively low “because people perceive it to be an invasive procedure,” Chao says.

Utah dentist Dr. Ryan O’Neil says Chao’s method lets him treat four or five teeth in the same time he used to treat one.

Dr. Richard Ward, a New York City periodontist, notes there are other methods to treat receding gums. “One uses a unique stem cell product called Emdogain that actually causes the regeneration of gum attachment to tooth and bone,” he says.

Ward also cautions patients to “seek the advice of their dentists and periodontists before embarking upon any novel procedure.”

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