Cancer Australia’s work in gynaecological cancer

Know your body and be ovarian cancer aware social media campaign

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in February provides the opportunity to focus on ovarian cancer, the second most common gynaecological cancer and the most common cause of gynaecological cancer death in women in Australia.

The symptoms of ovarian cancer are not widely known and there is no screening test for the disease, so it is important for women to know their own bodies and be aware of the symptoms.

Cancer Australia’s Know your body and be ovarian cancer aware social media campaign identifies symptoms of ovarian cancer to look out for and what women should do. Share the video with the women in your life.

Guidance on testing for ovarian cancer in asymptomatic women

A new Position Statement on testing for ovarian cancer in asymptomatic women was launched by Cancer Australia in February 2019. Position Statement - Testing for ovarian cancer in asymptomatic women provides up-to-date, evidence-based information and guidance on routine screening of women who are at population risk of ovarian cancer, and surveillance of women at high or potentially high risk of ovarian cancer. There is currently no evidence to support using any screening test to look for ovarian cancer in women who do not have symptoms.

For women concerned about their family history of breast or ovarian cancer, their doctor can assess their risk using Cancer Australia’s online tool Familial Risk Assessment – Breast and Ovarian Cancer (FRA-BOC) http://ow.ly/Ypb6M.
Shape national cancer control in Australia

The National Framework for Gynaecological Cancer Control identifies nationally-agreed evidence-based priority areas for action across the cancer control continuum. The Framework seeks to guide policy and service delivery directions in national gynaecological cancer control.

The annual Jeannie Ferris Cancer Australia Recognition Award, which recognises outstanding contributions to improving outcomes for women with gynaecological cancers, honours the late Senator Jeannie Ferris. The successful 2018 award recipients were Mr Duncan McPherson OAM in the Community Member category and Professor Clare Scott in the Health Professional/Researcher category.

Cancer Australia’s Gynaecological Cancer Advisory Group meets twice a year to advise on priority areas and issues of national relevance in gynaecological cancer.

Improve cancer outcomes

Publish Position Statement - Testing for ovarian cancer in asymptomatic women to provide the Australian community with evidence-based information and guidance on routine screening of women who are at population risk of ovarian cancer, and surveillance of women at high or potentially high risk of ovarian cancer.

The Position Statement provides up-to-date evidence-based information and guidance on routine screening of women who are at population risk of ovarian cancer, and surveillance of women at high or potentially high risk of ovarian cancer.

There is currently no evidence to support using any screening test to look for ovarian cancer in women who do not have symptoms.

In the absence of a screening test, it is important that women are aware of the symptoms of ovarian cancer and that they seek advice about any new or unusual symptoms.

The Position Statement - Testing for ovarian cancer in asymptomatic women has been endorsed by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, the Australian Society of Gynaecologic Oncologists, Cancer Council Australia, Ovarian Cancer Australia, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia.

Cancer Australia has also developed a consumer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) resource to assist with promoting and understanding the key messages of the Position Statement.

Raise awareness of gynaecological cancers including activities in Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and on Teal Ribbon Day to promote evidence-informed messages for women, health professionals and the community.

Develop an approach to improve identification, collection, collation and reporting of Indigenous status in HPV vaccination and cervical cancer screening programs.
**Cancer Australia Gynaecological cancer initiatives**

- **Inform effective and sustainable cancer care**
  - **Build** the evidence-base and develop guidance to support shared follow-up care for women with low-risk endometrial cancer.
  - **Validate** a gynaecological cancer-specific distress screening tool for women with gynaecological cancers to support women to live well during their cancer diagnosis, treatment and beyond.

- **Strengthen capability for national cancer control**
  - **Award** research grants in gynaecological cancers through Cancer Australia’s Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme (PdCCRS), a national project grants scheme that brings together Government and non-government funders in a nationally coordinated process. Through the 2007 to 2018 rounds of the PdCCRS, over $16.6 million has been provided to 35 gynaecological cancer grants.
  - **Build** capacity to conduct gynaecological cancer clinical trials in Australia. Between July 2013 and 30 June 2018, Cancer Australia has provided $2.3 million to the Australian New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) to develop industry-independent cancer clinical trials in gynaecological cancers. From July 2018- June 2021 Cancer Australia will provide a further $1.5 million to ANZGOG to continue to develop industry-independent cancer clinical trials in gynaecological cancer.

---

**Background**

In Australia, more women are living with endometrial cancer due to increasing incidence along with high survival rates. This is likely to increase pressure on Australian health services in future through increasing requirements for follow-up care for women including co-morbidities such as hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, which require attention to survivorship care. Many women with endometrial cancer generally take place in the specialist setting, a model that may not be sustainable into the future.

**Aims**

Cancer Australia aims to support national implementation of evidence-based and consensus-driven care through the development of guidance based on available evidence and consensus.

**Methods**

A narrative review which identified and synthesised the existing evidence on follow-up care for women who had completed active treatment for low-risk endometrial cancer. The feasibility study which explored how follow-up care for women with low-risk endometrial cancer, and developed with international guidelines for follow-up care for women with gynaecological cancer. The guide is based on a review of national and international guidelines for follow-up care for women with gynaecological cancer: A guide for General Practitioners.

**Results**

The consultations found general acceptance of shared follow-up care and support the model and the need for ongoing engagement and education of health professionals. A number of critical success factors for implementation of shared follow-up care for women with low-risk endometrial cancer identified by stakeholders include: general practitioners play in providing whole-person care and developing sustainable models of follow-up care and the important role of primary care in cancer control. The model assists GPs in managing aspects of survivorship care by health professionals including the important role of primary care in supporting shared follow-up care.

**Conclusions**

As a continuation of the important role of primary care providers in cancer control, shared follow up care between family doctors and cancer specialists may be needed to facilitate service redesign to deliver sustainable change. An evidence-informed, consensus-driven approach will inform guidance materials to support implementation.

---

**2018 PdCCRS round**

*Research Priorities*

Research priorities are now available

**Successful cancer research grants announced**
What you can do to help reduce the impact of ovarian cancer in Australia

Raise awareness

View and share Cancer Australia’s new ovarian cancer awareness video Know your body and be ovarian cancer aware.

Suggested post
Can you name the symptoms of #ovariancancer?
Watch @CancerAustralia’s video and be #ovariancanceraware https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7yxOFcQ

Share Cancer Australia’s ovarian cancer awareness flyer No-one knows your body like you do.

Suggested post
Do you know the symptoms of #ovariancancer? No one knows your body like you do http://ow.ly/r1pk308HHqd

Support best practice

Health professionals to follow best practice in the appropriate assessment and referral of women with symptoms that may be ovarian cancer, and the assessment of risk of breast and ovarian cancer for women concerned about their family history.

Suggested posts
Check out @CancerAustralia’s important guide for GPs - Assessment of symptoms that may be OvarianCancer http://ow.ly/YmsAC
Calling GPs - view @CancerAustralia’s resource to help guide referrals for women with suspected OvarianCancer http://ow.ly/YmsFE
GP assessment of family history – use @CancerAustralia’s online assessment tool (FRA-BOC) http://ow.ly/Ypb6M

References

© Cancer Australia 2019 GUOC 02/19