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The Princess Margaret Cancer Center Target Ovarian Cancer Program

Nataliya Moldovan
nataliya.moldovan@gmail.com

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Target Ovarian Cancer Program (TOCP): Systematic identification of high-risk women for ovarian cancer prevention

Research assistant: Nataliya Moldovan; Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry – Windsor program, Windsor, ON
Principal investigator: Marcus Bernardini; Division of Gynecologic Oncology, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto, ON
Co-investigators: Alicia Tone, Joan Murphy, Barry Rosen, Jeanna McCuaig, Suzanne Kamel-Reid, Tracy Stockley, Carl Virtanen, Amit Oza, Gary Rodin; Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto, ON

Ovarian cancer is the 5th leading cause of cancer-related death in Canadian women and is the most lethal cancer of the female reproductive tract. 1 in 5 women with the most common form of ovarian cancer, high-grade serous carcinoma (HGSC), have an inherited mutation in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes. Due to the strong link between BRCA1/2 and HGSC, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care released recommendations in 2001 that made all women with serous epithelial ovarian cancer eligible for BRCA1/2 testing. In the following decade only ~20% of eligible patients were referred, resulting in up to 2000 women in Ontario with inherited BRCA1/2 mutations who have not been identified and are unaware of their high risk for deadly ovarian cancer. The purpose of this initiative is to identify these women who carry BRCA1/2 mutations and other risk genes through genetic testing and provide the opportunity to prevent ovarian cancer by risk-reducing surgery.

References:

Pilot Initiative: Fill the Gap
I. Education campaign
II. Panel-based germline testing of female first degree relatives to detect mutations in BRCA1/2 (recommend risk-reducing surgery) + new risk genes
III. Grow high-risk cohort/research infrastructure
IV. Build case for shift in OMHLTC criteria/panel-based testing

Impact: Research in High-Risk Population
I. Psychosocial impact and barriers to genetic testing & risk-reducing surgery
II. Genotype-phenotype studies in new risk genes
III. Optimal targeted prevention strategies based on mutation status
IV. Long-term follow-up

Impact: Shift in Clinical Paradigm
I. Systematic genetic testing & targeted prevention
II. New models of genetic counselling
III. Work with Cancer Care Ontario & Ontario Ministry of Health (OMHLTC) to impact policy/knowledge translation

Detect inherited cancer predisposing mutations, Diagnose increased cancer risk, Target mutation carriers for risk-reducing surgery & Support families throughout the process

TOCP website - www.preventovariancancer.ca