



The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada

La Société des gynécologues oncologues du Canada

April 6, 2009

## **GOC Position Statement regarding Ovarian Cancer Screening**

The recently published UK study on ovarian cancer screening<sup>1</sup> does not provide evidence that routine screening of asymptomatic women using CA125 and ultrasound will significantly reduce mortality associated with ovarian cancer. In fact, screening of the general population may be counterproductive as abnormal screens might lead to “unnecessary surgeries” and potential morbidity. Mature data from the UK study, including the results of unscreened women, will be available in 2014.

Another large ovarian cancer screening study was recently published<sup>2</sup> which concludes that the ratio of surgeries to screen-detected ovarian cancer is high (19.5:1), and that most detected ovarian cancer cases are advanced stage, which is unlikely to be of significant impact on outcome from ovarian cancer.

At the present time, GOC concurs with the current guidelines of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force that state that routine ovarian cancer screening with CA125 and transvaginal ultrasound is not recommended. GOC encourages research efforts that investigate new screening modalities.

On behalf of the Executive of The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Marie Plante', written over a horizontal line.

Marie Plante, MD, FRCSC  
President, The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada

### **Mission Statement The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada**

The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada is a nonprofit organization consisting of physicians, nurses, scientists, pharmacists and other allied health care workers specializing in gynecologic oncology cancer care. Its purpose is to improve the care of women with gynecologic cancer, to raise standards of practice in gynecologic oncology and to encourage ongoing research. GOC also seeks to provide information and disseminate knowledge to practitioners, patients and the general public on gynecologic cancer as well as cooperate with other organizations interested in women's health care, oncology, and related fields.

<sup>1</sup> Menon U et al. Sensitivity and specificity of multimodal and ultrasound screening for ovarian cancer, and stage distribution of detected cancers: results of the prevalence screen of the UK Collaborative Trial of Ovarian Cancer Screening (UKCTOCS). *Lancet Oncol* 2009;10:327-40.

<sup>2</sup> Partridge E et al. Results from four rounds of ovarian cancer screening in a randomized trial. *Obstet Gynecol* 2009;113: 775-82.