



February 9, 2010

GOC Position Statement Regarding Prophylactic HPV Vaccines

A second vaccine to protect against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), Cervarix, has recently been approved for use in Canada. Approval of this second vaccine presents another option in cervical cancer prevention strategies. There are differences between this newly approved HPV vaccine and GARDASIL, the HPV vaccine approved for use in 2006. Each however is highly effective in protecting against infection with vaccine specific HPV types.

Human Papilloma Virus infections are responsible for virtually all cervical cancers and the pre-cancerous changes in the cervix leading to cancer. In Canada, there are approximately 1,400 new cases of cervical cancer and 420 deaths annually. Approximately 400,000 abnormal Pap tests per year require further diagnostic tests and treatments.

All women who are or ever have been sexually active are at risk of cervical cancer.

New studies demonstrate that both vaccines now approved for use in Canada are highly effective in protecting women from more than 70% of the cancer-causing strains of the virus. This new information further reinforces the important role of vaccination in the prevention of cervical cancer and precancerous disease.

Each vaccine has an excellent safety profile both in original research populations and now after extensive use worldwide. With vaccination, in combination with continued cervical screening, cervical cancer and its precursors are now highly preventable.

The Society of Gynecologic Oncology of Canada (GOC) is committed to the safe and equitable integration of strategies that are effective in cervical cancer prevention. The GOC welcomes the approval of a second vaccine to protect women against the viruses which cause this disease.

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

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

Marie Plante, MD, FRCS(C)

President

The Society of Gynecologic Oncology of Canada

GOC MISSION STATEMENT

The Society of Gynecologic Oncology of Canada is a nonprofit organization consisting of physicians, nurses, scientists and other health care professionals specializing in gynecologic oncology. Its purpose is to improve the care of women with or at risk of gynecologic cancer by raising standards of practice, encouraging ongoing research, promoting innovation in prevention, care and discovery, and advancing awareness. GOC also seeks to disseminate knowledge to practitioners, patients and the general public on gynecologic cancer as well as cooperate with other organizations committed to women's health care, oncology, and related fields.