



November 17, 2015

GOC Response to *The Approaches to High-Risk, Resource Intensive Cancer Surgical Care in Canada*, a report from the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC)

The Society of Gynecologic Oncology of Canada (GOC) is a multi-disciplinary organisation representing physicians and health care professionals with a special interest in gynecological cancers.

On November 12, 2015, CPAC released their report to [*The Approaches to High-Risk, Resource Intensive Cancer Surgical Care in Canada*](#), an important report which addresses in-hospital mortality and the effect of regionalisation on care. GOC strongly supports the conclusions of this report:

- 1) Ovarian cancer in-hospital post surgical mortality is low (<1%) and is decreasing over time.
- 2) Further improvement can be obtained by implementation of appropriate care pathways and regionalization of care.
- 3) Surgery for suspected ovarian cancers should be performed in specialised centers with a high volume of cases (>50 per year). For ovarian cancer, this translates to these surgeries being performed by gynecologic oncologists.
- 4) There is regional discrepancy in the in-hospital mortality despite correction for age and co-morbidities. Some differences between provinces might be related to patients with extreme outcomes in provinces with small numbers of cases.
- 5) The report highlights the need for timely access to investigations such as diagnostic imaging and biopsy with prompt referral to specialist centers.

The Society of Gynecologic Oncology of Canada strongly supports the conclusions of this report and continues to work towards more effective and safe care for all women with gynecological cancers.

On behalf of the GOC Executive,

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President