

The role of the Fallopian tube in “Ovarian” cancer development

Background and Rationale

In the past, fallopian tube cancer has been considered rare. However, early-stage tubal cancers and pre-invasive lesions have been detected incidentally in tubal specimens removed from women who had risk-reducing, prophylactic bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy (BSO). These lesions were always located in the distal, fimbrial end of the fallopian tube.

Patients who had a tubal ligation have a significantly reduced risk of “ovarian” cancer. According to two large US studies, the risk reduction is between 50% and 60%.

Opportunity

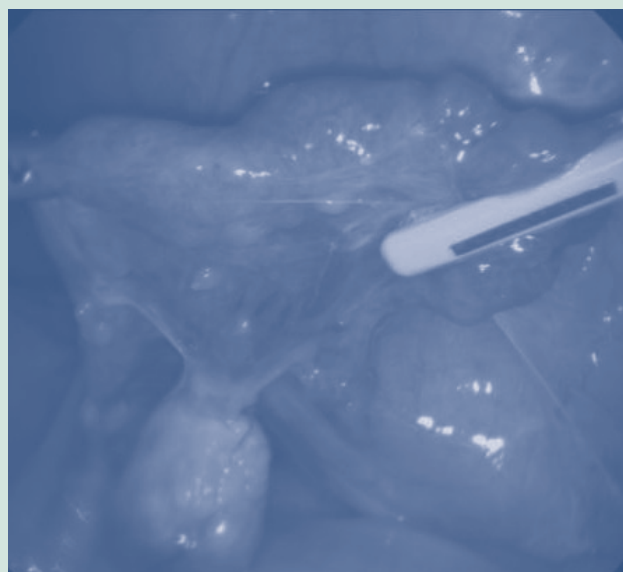
The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada proposed the opportunistic removal of the fallopian tubes (salpingectomy) in a woman undergoing a hysterectomy for benign indications and instead of tubal ligation for women who request a sterilisation.

Salpingectomy should not be performed instead of prophylactic BSO in BRCA1 and BRCA2 carriers but should be offered to all women who require pelvic surgery for another reason.

In Canada the rate of salpingectomy as part of hysterectomy for benign indications increased from 5% to 35% in 2014. During the same time the rate of salpingectomy for sterilisation increased from less than 1% to 33%.

Side effects

Salpingectomy adds at average 10 minutes to the operating time. Blood loss, hospital stay or any other complications were not observed. An Italian study suggested that ovarian hormone function in women who had the fallopian tubes removed did not change immediately and three months after surgery.



Caution

Women need to be aware that a salpingectomy is not reversible and tubal re-anastomosis is not possible. Regret was mainly found in women who were under the age of 30 years and women who were unmarried at the time of the procedure. These women need to have IVF to fall pregnant.

Salpingectomy should be offered to the following women

1. Women who require a hysterectomy for benign indications and who completed their family.
2. Women in their thirties and forties who are BRCA1 or BRCA2 positive (at very high risk of ovarian cancer) who have not completed their families and who may require IVF.
3. Women who completed their family and wish to have permanent birth control.

Cancer Statistics

A couple of weeks ago Cancer Australia, a leading Federal Government institution released a report on cancer research funding and I found it so interesting that I wanted to share a few snippets with you:

1. The actual number of new cancer cases in Australia has more than doubled from 1982 to 2009.
2. Overall cancer five-year survival (all cancers) has increased from 46.9% (1982 – 1987) to 66.1% (2006 – 2010) and particularly in some cancer types that received sufficient funds. Gynaecological cancer survival has not improved markedly.
3. Overall funding to cancer research in Australia has increased from \$229 Million (2003 to 2005) to \$596 Million (2009-2011) and Australian Government sources fund two thirds of all cancer research.
4. While Queensland constitutes 20% of Australia's population, only 16% of total research funding was allocated to Queensland cancer research institutions. That is \$38 per person in Queensland, compared to \$78 per person in Victoria and \$42 per person in NSW.
5. Considering their incidence, survival and disease burden, breast cancer, melanoma, prostate cancer and leukemia are well off ("over-funded"). By contrast gynaecological cancer research is at the very bottom end to receive government funds.



Jayne Fagan (my rooms secretary)

With the purchase of two T-shirts of the Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation at \$25 each you will match the per-head cancer research expense for Queensland. Should you purchase a third Cherish T-shirt you will have increased our State's cancer research investment to Victorian standards.

T-shirts can be ordered by email through Emma Capaldi at : e.capaldi@uq.edu.au; sizes available are small to x-large.

The Battle Against Ovarian Cancer

Yes it's back again!

Join us for THE most exciting event in your 2015 calendar...

THE FOURTH ANNUAL BATTLE AGAINST OVARIAN CANCER.

WHEN: Sunday 22 February, 2015

WHERE: Sandstorm Beach Club, QSAC, Mains Road, Mt Gravatt

REGISTRATION: \$550 per team. Register your team of five or more players now and start fundraising to reach your target!

MONTHLY INCENTIVES Once you've registered your team, it's time for each member to start fundraising towards an eventual team total. Each month, those individuals who raise \$100 go into a draw for an inspirational prize; the winner being announced at the end of each month.

SEPTEMBER WINNER - Ravi Rao from Sandy Crew was the proud winner of a sunset dinner for four and movie passes for four at Palace Cinemas. Congratulations Ravi!

AUGUST WINNER - Rachael Henebery from Ovary Talented was the proud winner of a 2-night voucher at Hilton Brisbane. Congratulations Rachael!