

Gilda Radner Familial Ovarian Cancer Registry Newsletter

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Hereditary Ovarian Cancer: Lessons from the First Twenty Years of the Gilda Radner Familial Ovarian Cancer Registry.

For a reprint of this manuscript authored by M. Steven Piver, M.D. concerning the history of the Registry that appeared in the journal *Gynecologic Oncology*, Vol. 85, No. 1 April 1, 2002, email the Registry at gradner@roswellpark.org

Registry News.

The Registry continues to evolve. We have added Barbara Gibbs to our staff. She is busy inviting new members to join our Registry and sending out follow-up letters. Joan Bernadino, our volunteer, is helping us continue to request medical records to complete our data files.

The Irish Classical Theatre Company, Buffalo, NY, performed the 1999 Pulitzer Prize winning drama *WIT* by Margaret Edson. Dr. Piver was the medical consultant for the ICTC performance of *WIT*. The Registry collaborated with the Theater one evening and held a gala affair with a talkback with actors, director and audience after the performance with a wine and cheese party at a near by bistro. The event helped bring ovarian cancer awareness to the community as well as earn funding for our research.

As you already know, our web site www.ovariancancer.com has a new look. Our webmaster, Delmar Reid, has been a gem. We hope you find our updated web site easier to use to find the information you need. If you have an ovarian awareness event coming up and would like it posted on our Calendar, please email gradner@roswellpark.org and let us know the details. Also, watch this site for ovarian awareness events happening throughout the year.

Help-Line for High-Risk Women.

The Help-Line is a support service established by volunteers who have a personal or family history of ovarian cancer to assist callers in making decisions about their health care. Volunteers at the Help-Line provide callers with information, along with emotional and personal support. By calling 1-800-OVARIAN and asking for a Help-Line call, you will be placed in contact with concerned volunteers who have made the decisions you are now facing.

Friends of the Registry!

We would like to thank some of the people who have worked hard throughout the past year to raise money to support ovarian cancer research.

The Kozlowski Family, Brockton, NY

Fox Valley Golf Club, Lancaster, NY

Robert J. Calvino Annual Softball Tournament, Johnston, RI

Pedal for a Cure, Amston, CT

The Eileen Beauchamp Invitational Golf Tournament, Woburn, MA

Annual Marathon Party in Memory of Eileen Beauchamp, Woburn, MA

The Family of Claire Capozzi, Boston, MA

The Phyllis Zior Charity Fund, Boise, ID

The Christine Beirne Ovarian Cancer Walk, Brentwood, MO

Bank One Foundation, Chicago, IL

Jennifer and Paul Tucker, Williamsville, NY

Robert and Marlene Newell, Westlake Village, CA

Classmates of Michele Cellucci, Folsom, PA

Whitney High – Class of 2005, Cerritos, CA

The Irish Classical Theatre Company, Buffalo, NY

OxyChem Niagara, Niagara Falls, NY

Laura Marie MacPherson, Buffalo, NY

Marcy Stillman, Buffalo Grove, IL

And hundreds more!

Another Possible Blood Test for the Early Detection of Ovarian Cancer: Proteomic Patterns - Dr. M. Steven Piver

Everyone is agreed that there is a great need for simple blood tests for diagnosing ovarian cancer...with three important caveats:

1. It needs to be specific to ovarian cancer
2. It needs to be increased in 90-95% of Stage I (when the tumor is limited to the ovary and the cure rate approaches 95%);
3. It should not be increased in noncancerous conditions.

Before we discuss the newest test, Proteomic Patterns, we should review where we have been in the quest for an early diagnostic test for ovarian cancer.

1. CA125 – In 1983, reporting in the New England Journal of Medicine, Robert Bast and colleagues were the first to report on a new blood test, CA125, for diagnosing ovarian cancer. Eighteen years later, CA125 remains the best test available. Although elevated in 90% of advanced stages, Stage III (spread of the abdominal cavity) and IV (spread of the liver or beyond it), it is only elevated in 50% of early Stage I cases. Moreover, it is not specific to ovarian cancer, being elevated in other cancers such as breast and gastrointestinal malignancies. It is also elevated in such benign conditions as uterine fibroids, endometriosis, menstruation and pregnancy, but to mention a few. Admittedly, it is not a good test for screening for early staged ovarian cancer.
2. OVXI – Ten years later, in 1993, Ian Jacobs and F. J. Xu reported in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute that a new blood test OVXI was elevated in 65% of 46 Stage I ovarian cancers. It was subsequently reported that if the blood was not tested immediately after being drawn, that this resulted in a falsely elevated OVXI, and the researchers are now redoing this study, examining the blood as soon as it is drawn.

3. Lysophosphatidic Acid (LPA) – Y. Xu and co-researchers reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association, in 1998, that LPA was elevated in 9 of 10 Stage I ovarian cancers. To date, there have been no large-scale reports to verify this 90% increase of LPA in Stage I ovarian cancers, nor would we advocate a new diagnostic test that has only been reported in 10 women with Stage I cancer.

4. Proteomic Patterns – Most recently, Emmanuel Petricoin from the Food and Drug Administration and Lance Liotta from the US National Cancer Institute reported in the British Journal, The Lancet, Vol. 359, February 16, 2002 on Proteomic Patterns which analyze patterns of five proteins found in the blood. The exciting news was that the protein patterns correctly diagnosed all 50 cases of ovarian cancer, including 18 Stage I cases among women at increased risk for ovarian cancer because of a family history of ovarian cancer or genetic mutation. The other good news was that it only requires a drop of blood and the results are available in 30 minutes.

The authors, however, admit that the abnormal proteins (and their function) have not been identified and it may be years before these results are verified (or not). Although we hope that it is sooner than later, in the year 2002, the blood test CA125 remains the gold standard for possibly diagnosing ovarian cancer in its earliest, most curable stage.

Name _____ Registry ID # _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____ E-mail address: _____

Comment/Update: _____

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Logo
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