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Authors
Sherman, Mark E
Piedmonte, Marion
Mai, Phuong L
et al.

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Peer reviewed
Pathologic Findings at Risk-Reducing Salpingo-Oophorectomy: Primary Results From Gynecologic Oncology Group Trial GOG-0199


ABSTRACT

Purpose
Risk-reducing salpingo-oophorectomy (RRSO) lowers mortality from ovarian/tubal and breast cancers among BRCA1/2 mutation carriers. Uncertainties persist regarding potential benefits of RRSO among high-risk noncarriers, optimal surgical age, and anatomic origin of clinically occult cancers detected at surgery. To address these topics, we analyzed surgical treatment arm results from Gynecologic Oncology Group Protocol-0199 (GOG-0199), the National Ovarian Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Study.

Participants and Methods
This analysis included asymptomatic high-risk women age ≥ 30 years who elected RRSO at enrollment. Women provided risk factor data and underwent preoperative cancer antigen 125 (CA-125) serum testing and transvaginal ultrasound (TVU). RRSO specimens were processed according to a standardized tissue processing protocol and underwent central pathology panel review. Research-based BRCA1/2 mutation testing was performed when a participant’s mutation status was unknown at enrollment. Relationships between participant characteristics and diagnostic findings were assessed using univariable statistics and multivariable logistic regression.

Results
Invasive or intraepithelial ovarian/tubal/peritoneal neoplasms were detected in 25 (2.6%) of 966 RRSO specimens. Among BRCA1/2 carriers, 4.6%; BRCA2 carriers, 3.5%; and noncarriers, 0.5%; (P < .001). In multivariable models, positive BRCA1/2 mutation status (P = .0056), postmenopausal status (P = .0023), and abnormal CA-125 levels and/or TVU examinations (P < .001) were associated with detection of clinically occult neoplasms at RRSO. For 387 women with negative BRCA1/2 mutation testing and normal CA-125 levels, findings at RRSO were benign.

Conclusion
Clinically occult cancer was detected among 2.6% of high-risk women undergoing RRSO. BRCA1/2 mutation, postmenopausal status, and abnormal preoperative CA-125 and/or TVU were associated with cancer detection at RRSO. These data can inform management decisions among women at high risk of ovarian/tubal cancer.


INTRODUCTION
Risk-reducing salpingo-oophorectomy (RRSO) reduces number of deaths resulting from ovarian/tubal and breast cancers among carriers of deleterious BRCA1/2 mutations and thus has become a preferred management strategy for these women.1-3 Although oral contraceptive use and tubal ligation reduce the risk of ovarian/tubal neoplasms, level of protection is lower than that achieved with RRSO, and breast cancer risk is not reduced.4-7 The effectiveness of screening in reducing mortality attributable to these cancers remains unproven. Annual concurrent cancer antigen 125 (CA-125) serum testing and transvaginal ultrasound (TVU) in the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian trial did not reduce ovarian/tubal cancer mortality.8 Preliminary results from the UK Collaborative Trial of Ovarian Cancer Screening, which targeted similar women, reported potentially better results using algorithm-based CA-125 testing with secondary TVU examination;9 final results are pending, and data from high-risk women are just emerging.10 Thus, determining which women

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benefit most from RRSO and the age at which surgery provides maximum protection with minimum adverse effects from hormone deprivation remains critical.11-13

Clinical acceptance of RRSO has provided pathologists with opportunities to study small ovarian/tubal neoplasms, prompting new insights into their pathogenesis. We now know that many high-grade serous cancers, the numerically predominant and most lethal subtype of ovarian/tubal cancer, arise from the fallopian tube fimbria, not the ovary, as previously supposed.14-19 This has prompted discussions of a two-stage prevention strategy in which salpingectomy with ovarian retention would be performed in younger women, followed by oophorectomy at a later time.20 However, this approach remains investigational.21-23

The reported frequency of clinically occult neoplasms in RRSO varies widely, reflecting differences in study populations, pathology processing, and diagnosis.2,16,24-55 Prior reports are characterized by small size, incomplete risk factor information (eg, missing BRCA1/2 data), variable preoperative clinical testing assessment, differences in symptomatic disease exclusion criteria, and retrospective analysis of nonstandardized pathology diagnoses. The prevalence of occult neoplasms at RRSO in six prospective studies34,40,47-49,55 averages as follows: all BRCA-positive participants, 3.7%; BRCA1 positive, 4.4%; BRCA2 positive, 2.0%; and high-risk/mutation-negative/unknown status, 0.5% (Data Supplement). The literature includes only approximately 150 reports of occult cancers at RRSO, most from retrospective studies. Accordingly, we now report results from the surgical intervention arm of Gynecologic Oncologic Group (GOG) Protocol-0199 (GOG-0199), the Prospective Study of Risk-Reducing Salpingo-Oophorectomy and Longitudinal CA-125 Screening Among Women at Increased Genetic Risk of Ovarian Cancer (also known as National Ovarian Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Study).56 GOG-0199 is a nonrandomized multicenter trial of women at high-risk of ovarian/tubal neoplasms comparing health outcomes among women who chose between RRSO or screening (CA-125– and TVU-based testing, according to risk of ovarian cancer algorithm).57

**Participants and Methods**

**Participants**

Eligible participants included women age ≥ 30 years who were at high risk of developing ovarian/tubal/primary peritoneal cancer based on being BRCA1/2 mutation positive or having a strong family history (specified elsewhere), not clinically suspected of having a gynecologic cancer, and being managed with preventive rather than therapeutic intent.56 Given the low screening test sensitivity and specificity of CA-125 and TVU, normal results for these tests were not required for eligibility. Candidate participants with abnormalities considered insufficient to merit a workup for cancer were included. At enrollment, participants elected immediate RRSO or screening, with the option to cross over to the RRSO arm postenrollment, either electively or for indications. From June 2003 to November 2006, 1,575 and 1,030 women were enrolled onto the screening and RRSO arms, respectively; 28 had unconfirmed eligibility, and 36 not undergoing RRSO per protocol were excluded, leaving 966 eligible surgical participants (Fig 1). Protocol NCT-00049049 was approved by institutional review boards at the National Cancer Institute, GOG, and 151 GOG institutions (United States and Australia).

**Baseline Study Procedures**

Participants completed ovarian/tubal cancer risk factor, medical history, quality-of-life, and medical decision-making questionnaires; donated blood for serum and DNA; and underwent CA-125 testing and TVU before RRSO. Mutation status was known for 962 (99.6%) of 966 participants, from clinical and research-based mutation testing.56 Women electing RRSO underwent surgery within 90 days of enrollment, with intraoperative pelvic organ visual inspection, peritoneal lavage cytology, and total removal of both ovaries and fallopian tubes. Hysterectomy was performed electively, per patient and physician discretion.

**Pathology Processing and Panel Review**

The protocol stipulated that ovaries and fallopian tubes be sectioned at 2- to 3-mm intervals and entirely submitted for histologic examination (reported as done in 85% of pathology reports). Medians of 16, 17, and 15 slides (each potentially containing multiple sections) per RRSO were submitted for BRCA1 mutation carriers, BRCA2 mutation carriers, and noncarriers, respectively. Centers enrolling ≤ 20 participants submitted a median of 15 slides per RRSO versus 17 for higher enrolling centers.
Hematoxylin and eosin–stained surgical pathology slides from 957 (99.1%) RRSOs and cytopathology slides from peritoneal washes from 881 (91.2%) were initially reviewed (M.E.S.) to identify cancer and determine its primary site, histologic subtype, grade, and extent. RRSOs showing serous tubal intraepithelial carcinoma (STIC) associated with invasive cancer were designated as primary fallopian tube cancers; primary sites of the remaining cancers were assigned based on distribution and extent of tumor deposits. Grading and staging were performed according to the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics classification. Cases initially classified as invasive cancer, STIC, or tubal atypia of any severity were reviewed independently by a second pathologist (O.B.I.) and then jointly reviewed to resolve discrepancies. Final diagnoses were assigned in a consensus review conducted by three pathologists (M.E.S., O.B.I., B.M.R.), masked to prior diagnoses. Our analysis is limited to cases with consensus diagnosis of STIC or invasive cancer.

Statistical Methods

Frequencies and percentages with 95% CIs of invasive cancer and STIC were defined overall and by specific participant characteristics: pertinent medical history, including race, age, menopausal status, family history of breast and ovarian cancer, BRCA1/2 mutation status, personal history of breast cancer, use of oral contraceptives or menopausal hormones, parity, tamoxifen use, and preoperative testing, including CA-125 levels (upper normal: premenopausal, 50 U/mL; postmenopausal, 35 U/mL), TVU results, and test combinations.58 The primary outcome for this analysis was STIC or invasive ovarian/tubal/peritoneal cancer, referred to herein as ovarian/tubal neoplasm. Single-factor associations between categorical variables and frequency of ovarian/tubal neoplasms were assessed with Fisher’s exact tests; associations for age as a continuous variable were evaluated using nonparametric Kruskal-Wallis tests. To assess factors independently associated with pathologic findings, we performed multivariable logistic regression; the outcome variable was detection of ovarian/tubal neoplasm, and explanatory variables included specific factors that were included in the final model, using stepwise forward selection at levels of P < .05.

RESULTS

Prevalence of Invasive Cancer and STIC by Participant Characteristics

Characteristics among BRCA1 mutation carriers, BRCA2 mutation carriers, and noncarriers were identical for all but three factors: ovarian cancer family history (BRCA1 carriers, 55.0%; BRCA2 carriers, 33.2%; and noncarriers, 57.7%; P < .001), menopausal hormone use (BRCA1 carriers, 61.3%; BRCA2 carriers, 51.6%; and noncarriers, 44.2%; P < .001), and tamoxifen use (BRCA1 carriers, 17.9%; BRCA2 carriers, 27.4%; and noncarriers, 32.8%; P = .001).

Among 966 participants, 25 (2.6%; 95% CI, 1.6% to 3.6%) were diagnosed with ovarian/tubal neoplasms, including 15 of 326 BRCA1 mutation carriers (4.6%; 95% CI, 2.3% to 6.9%), eight of 231 BRCA2 carriers (3.5%; 95% CI, 1.1% to 5.8%), and two of 403 noncarriers (0.5%; 95% CI, −0.2% to 1.2%; P < .001). These 25 participant cases included four STICs (BRCA1, n = 2; BRCA2, n = 2).

Women with ovarian/tubal neoplasms were older than those with benign pathology (age 52.7 ± 47.1 years; P < .001; Table 1). Neoplasms were detected among 4.5% of postmenopausal women versus 1.2% of premenopausal women (P = .003). Past tamoxifen use, but not personal history of breast cancer, was marginally associated with ovarian/tubal neoplasm (P = .04). Ovarian/tubal neoplasms were found among 10.6% of women with abnormal TVU and/or elevated CA-125 level versus 1.6% of those with both tests normal, a difference almost entirely attributable to elevated CA-125 results. Neoplasms were detected among seven (26.9%) of 26 women with abnormal CA-125 tests only, one (1.3%) of 77 women with abnormal TVU only, three (25.0%) of 12 women with both tests abnormal, and 13 (1.6%) of 818 women with normal results for both tests (P < .001; Table 1). Among BRCA mutation–negative women, 15 (3.7%) of 402 had abnormal CA-125 levels; neoplasms were not

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Negative RRSO (n = 941)</th>
<th>Invasive Cancer/STIC (n = 25)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline CA-125/TVU</td>
<td>Normal/normal 805 88.6 13 54.0</td>
<td>Abnormal/normal 19 2.1 7 29.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Normal/abnormal 76 8.4 1 4.2</td>
<td>Abnormal/abnormal 9 1.0 3 12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>Median 47.1 52.7</td>
<td>IQR 41.5-53.4 47.9-58.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menopausal status</td>
<td>Premenopausal 559 59.4 7 28.0</td>
<td>Postmenopausal 382 40.6 18 72.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>White NS 892 95.3 24 96.0</td>
<td>Black NS 32 3.4 1 4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other NS 12 1.3 0 0.0</td>
<td>Nulliparous NS 700 85.0 15 71.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history</td>
<td>Breast cancer NS</td>
<td>Ovarian cancer NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No 153 16.8 1 4.4</td>
<td>No 444 49.0 13 56.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes 755 83.2 22 95.6</td>
<td>Yes 463 51.0 10 43.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRCA1 mutation status</td>
<td>Noncarrier NS 401 42.3 2 8.0</td>
<td>BRCA1 positive NS 311 33.3 15 60.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BRCA2 positive NS 223 23.8 8 32.0</td>
<td>Double positive NS 2 0.2 0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OC use</td>
<td>Current NS 51 5.4 0 0.0</td>
<td>Former 630 67.2 15 60.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Never 257 27.4 10 40.0</td>
<td>Menopausal hormone use NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Current 165 18.2 1 4.4</td>
<td>Former 269 29.7 11 47.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Never 471 52.0 11 47.8</td>
<td>Personal history of breast cancer NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No 421 44.7 10 40.0</td>
<td>Yes 520 55.3 15 60.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamoxifen use</td>
<td>Current NS</td>
<td>Former 120 13.3 6 26.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|              | Never 686 73.6 17 73.9 | Abbreviations: CA-125, cancer antigen 125; GOG, Gynecologic Oncology Group; IQR, interquartile range; NS, not significant; OC, oral contraceptive; RRSO, risk-reducing salpingo-oophorectomy; STIC, serous tubal intraepithelial carcinoma; TVU, transvaginal ultrasound. *Numbers might not add up to total of 966 because of missing values. †Two participants with both BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations were excluded from this analysis.
observed among 387 mutation-negative participants with normal baseline CA-125.

CA-125 levels > 100 U/mL were recorded for 14 women (one with a suspicious TVU), including seven with cancers detected at RRSO (ovarian, n = 4; peritoneal, n = 2; and tubal primary, n = 1). Twelve cancers (BRCA1, n = 8; BRCA2, n = 2; and noncarriers, n = 2) occurred among the 116 women with a TVU abnormality and/or CA-125 elevation. After excluding these 116 participants, the remaining 13 prevalent cancers occurred among 496 BRCA1/2 mutation carriers versus none of the 350 noncarriers.

In multivariable models, postmenopausal status (odds ratio [OR], 4.8; 95% CI, 1.8 to 13.2), positive BRCA1/2 mutation test (OR, 8.3; 95% CI, 1.9 to 37.0), and abnormal CA-125 and/or TVU results (OR, 13.8; 95% CI, 5.2 to 36.3) were independently associated with ovarian/tubal neoplasm at RRSO. In models excluding 27 women with suspicious TVUs and/or CA-125 levels > 100 U/mL, factors associated with neoplasms included: BRCA1/2 mutation (OR, 11.3; 95% CI, 1.4 to 87.9), abnormal baseline test (OR, 6.5; 95% CI, 1.8 to 24.3), and menopausal status (OR, 4.0; 95% CI, 1.2 to 13.3). Cancers were not observed among noncarriers with normal baseline tests; among carriers, older age and postmenopausal status were associated with a similar level of minimal risk (OR, 1.1; 95% CI, 1.0 to 1.1).

Clinical Characteristics of Invasive Cancers and STICs in GOG-0199

The neoplasms detected at RRSO were classified as ovarian (n = 10), tubal (n = 10), and primary peritoneal (n = 5). Among 21 invasive cancers, 13 were serous, two were endometrioid, and six were mixed/unclassifiable histologic type (Table 2). Fourteen neoplasms were stages 0 to II, including five ovarian and nine tubal primaries (four STICs), of which 11 showed minimal disease volumes (≤ 1 cm), and three demonstrated macroscopic ovarian cancer (Fig 2). Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Characteristics of Invasive Cancers and STICs in GOG-0199</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Table 2. Characteristics of Cancers Detected at RRSO in GOG-0199: National Ovarian Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Histology</th>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>Cytology</th>
<th>Stage*</th>
<th>CA-125 (U/mL)</th>
<th>Tumor Volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ovary</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRCA1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serous adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>IIC</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Multiple ovarian and peritoneal nodules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serous adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>IIC</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>8-cm mass in right ovary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenocarcinoma with squamous differentiation</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>IIA</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>2.7-cm mass in right ovary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endometrioid adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>IIC</td>
<td>1,128</td>
<td>6-cm friable mass in left ovary; 3.8-cm mass in right ovary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BRCA2

| Serous adenocarcinoma | 54 | Positive | IC | 11 | 1-mm focus in left and right ovaries |
| Serous adenocarcinoma | 55 | Negative | IC | 12 | 2.2-cm nodule in right ovary; 1.5-cm nodule in left ovary identified on sectioning |

Mixed epithelial adenocarcinoma

| 52 | Positive | IIC | 336 | Multiple omental implants and nodules |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fallopian tube</th>
<th>BRCA1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serous adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serous tubal intraepithelial carcinoma</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serous tubal intraepithelial carcinoma</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRCA2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serous adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serous tubal intraepithelial carcinoma</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serous tubal intraepithelial carcinoma</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BRCA mutation negative

| Adenocarcinoma | 73 | Negative | IA | 67 | Microscopic focus in left FT |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary peritoneal</th>
<th>BRCA1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serous adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenocarcinoma</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRCA2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carcinoma NOS</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BRCA mutation negative

| Serous adenocarcinoma | 52 | Positive | III | 6 | Microscopic focus in left ovary |
| Serous adenocarcinoma | 50 | Positive | III | 196 | Microscopic foci in both ovaries |

Abbreviations: FT, fallopian tube; ND, not done; NOS, not otherwise specified; RRSO, risk-reducing salpingo-oophorectomy. Information on complete staging was available for only one of 14 early-staged participant cases; 2012 version of International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics staging system was used.
with stage I cancers presented a median CA-125 level of 20 U/mL (range, 11 to 67 U/mL) versus 196 U/mL (range, 12 to 1,128 U/mL) among those with stage III cancers. All cases of STIC occurred among mutation carriers with normal CA-125 levels (range, 8 to 20 U/mL). Peritoneal washes were positive in 14 (1.6%) of 881 cases of invasive cancer, including 13 ovarian/tubal neoplasms and one endometrial cancer (Table 2; Appendix Table A1, online only). All participant cases with positive washes had cancer in surgical pathology specimens.

Among 515 women who underwent elective hysterectomy, six (1.2%) harbored endometrial cancer, including two cases each of uterine endometrioid and mucinous cancers among noncarriers and two serous cancers among BRCA1 mutation carriers (Appendix Table A1, online only).

**DISCUSSION**

Our results demonstrated ovarian/tubal neoplasms in 2.6% of RRSOs (BRCA1 mutation carriers, 4.6%; BRCA2 mutation carriers, 3.5%; and high-risk noncarriers, 0.5%). This frequency is similar to reported results, including a recent prospective study where the prevalence of ovarian/tubal/peritoneal cancers was 4.2% among BRCA1 mutation carriers (Data Supplement). Use of more sensitive sectioning protocols (longitudinal and transverse sectioning), combined with growing diagnostic acumen (immunohistochemistry, focus on fimbriae), suggests that our estimates of STIC and early tubal neoplasia may prove low. Nonetheless, given the size and breadth of ascertainment in GOG-0199, our estimates of prevalent neoplastic lesions at RRSO provide state-of-the-science evidence for decision making and management.

Although women with suspicious symptoms were considered ineligible, we cannot confirm strict protocol adherence to this requirement. Furthermore, abnormal or worrisome preoperative screening tests were not considered exclusions, because of the nonspecificity of positive testing in the general population. Overall, 9.6% of women had abnormal CA-125 levels, TVU, or both, including 50% of women with invasive ovarian/tubal cancer. Three of six women with invasive
tubal cancer had abnormalities in CA-125 levels and/or TVU, whereas all four women with STIC had normal results, suggesting that RRSO offers protection that would be unachievable by screening high-risk women. In addition, we identified two groups of women in whom neoplasms were not found: noncarriers with normal CA-125 levels and high-risk women age < 42 years.

High CA-125 concentrations have been linked to detection of cancer or dysplasia in prophylactic or diagnostic RRSO. In our analysis, seven of 14 women with CA-125 levels ≥ 100 U/mL had cancer (ovarian, n = 4; peritoneal, n = 2; tubal, n = 1), only one of whom had an abnormal TVU, which may partly explain why these women were considered eligible for enrollment.

In this study, neoplasm prevalence was higher among older postmenopausal women; none of the women with neoplasms was age < 42 years, consistent with prior data linking increasing age and risk. Although younger BRCA1 carriers are at markedly elevated relative risk of ovarian/tubal cancer, their absolute risk up to age 40 years is approximately ≤ 3%. Nonetheless, BRCA-related ovarian/tubal neoplasms may occur at younger ages, particularly among BRCA1 mutation carriers. A recent report found that the estimated risk of ovarian/tubal cancer before or at the time of RRSO among mutation carriers was 4% if surgery was delayed until age 40 years. The absence of neoplasms among the youngest GOG-0199 participants reflects the infrequency of such cases, the number of younger women and the number of BRCA1 mutation carriers in this study, and the probability that early-onset cancers may present symptomatically before ages at which RRSO is considered. Thus, in accordance with standards of care, many BRCA1/2 mutation carriers opt for early RRSO, prior to age-related increases in risk. Among noncarriers in their 40s, whose ovarian cancer risk is lower but poorly defined, development of chronic morbidity and mortality secondary to surgical menopause complicates this choice. Developing age-specific risk/benefit models related to RRSO would be clinically useful. In GOG-0199, microscopic neoplasms were found within the tubes and ovaries, supporting prior recommendations to entirely submit these tissues for histologic examination. Cytopathologic review of peritoneal cytology did not affect detection of malignancy.

Eleven women in this trial presented with minimal disease, including four with STICs, four with small invasive tubal cancers, two with minimal ovarian involvement, and one with involvement of both ovaries and the left fallopian tube, consistent with the view that the fallopian tube is an important source of high-grade serous cancers. As performance of RRSO with meticulous pathologic assessment has become more common, detection of early neoplastic lesions has risen, posing new challenges to optimal staging and management of women with minimal or noninvasive disease. In GOG-0199, most large invasive cancers produced bulky ovarian disease and were therefore classified as primary ovarian tumors when STIC was not identified, which may have resulted in underestimation of the number of tubal primaries.

Bilateral salpingectomy with deferred oophorectomy has been proposed as a temporizing prevention measure for high-risk individuals, enabling premenopausal women to postpone oophorectomy and maintain ovarian function for a longer time period. Developing sensitive methods to exclude occult neoplastic lesions in retained ovaries would strengthen the promise of this approach, as would defining precisely the age-specific risks of ovarian, fallopian tube, and breast cancers and chronic diseases secondary to hormone deprivatio

Among women with different risk factor profiles. Although developing a unified pathogenetic model for high-grade serous ovarian/tubal neoplasia is appealing, it is notable that only two cancers were found among 403 high-risk noncarriers in GOG-0199, underscoring the need to determine whether managing these women similarly to BRCA1/2 mutation carriers—as is currently done—is optimal. Other data also suggest that risk of ovarian/tubal cancer in BRCA mutation-negative familial breast cancer families is lower than among mutation-positive women. STIC remains poorly described among noncarriers, particularly without concurrent invasive fallopian tube cancer.

Six women had endometrial cancer at RRSO, including two serous cancers (0.6%) in 326 BRCA1 mutation carriers and four (1.0%) in 403 noncarriers. Serous endometrial cancer has been linked to prior breast cancer, tamoxifen use, and, inconsistently, with BRCA1 mutation. Endometrial serous cancers may be associated with lesions resembling STIC, perhaps representing independent primaries or intramucosal spread from a single primary tumor. Given these data, thorough microscopic endometrial examination is warranted when hysterectomy is performed with RRSO.

Strengths of this study include its large sample size, prospective design, recruitment from diverse practice settings, inclusion of mutation-negative/strong family history–positive women, comprehensive assessment of risk factors and BRCA1/2 mutation status, implementation of a standardized tissue processing protocol, and central pathology review. To our knowledge, this is the largest study to date in which the BRCA mutation status of all participants was known, all surgical pathology material was handled via a predefined protocol, and a rigorous, explicit effort was made to exclude symptomatic women from study entry. Consequently, our results can be generalized with confidence to different groups of women and practice settings.

Although GOG-0199 was designed to enroll asymptomatic high-risk women, nearly 12% of participants had abnormal baseline tests, raising concerns about whether these women were vaguely symptomatic or encouraged to undergo RRSO on that basis. However, compared with the GOG-0199 screening arm, women in the surgical arm did not have a significantly higher frequency of abnormal screening tests (TVU and/or CA-125; 12.4% v 10.9%) or abnormal TVU (9.6% v 8.9%), but they did have a slightly higher frequency of elevated CA-125 levels (surgical arm, 4.0% v 3.0%). Nonetheless, GOG-0199 was not designed to assess the risk-reducing value of hysterectomy, which was chosen electively by participants and physicians, and indications for that procedure were not collected.

In summary, this nonrandomized prospective clinical trial found that 2.6% of women undergoing RRSO were diagnosed with ovarian/tubal neoplasms, including 4.6% of BRCA1 mutation carriers, 3.5% of BRCA2 mutation carriers, and 0.5% of noncarriers. Overall, 56% of
women with ovarian/tubal neoplasia had STIC or stage I or II invasive cancer, suggesting an improved prognosis compared with symptom-
tatic presentation. Older, postmenopausal carriers of BRCA1/2 muta-
tions who presented with abnormal CA-125 serum levels or TVU were more likely to have invasive neoplasms at RR SO, whereas women lacking these features were at lower risk of neoplastic findings, espe-
cially if mutation negative. Our data suggest that assessing factors associated with cancer at RR SO may enable improved, patient-specific
management decisions, which reflect complex considerations related to cancer prevention, risks of non-neoplastic disease, and quality of life.

**AUTHORS’ DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Although all authors completed the disclosure declaration, the following author(s) and/or an author’s immediate family member(s) indicated a financial or other interest that is relevant to the subject matter under
consideration in this article. Certain relationships marked with a “U” are those for which no compensation was received; those relationships marked with a “C” were compensated. For a detailed description of the meaning of these categories, or for more information about ASCO’s conflict of interest policy, please see the Author Disclosure Declaration and the Disclosures of Potential Conflicts of Interest section in Information for Contributors.

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**AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Conception and design: Mark E. Sherman, Gustavo Rodriguez, Steven J. Skates, David S. Alberts, Lori Minasian, Karen Lu, Mark H. Greene

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Administrative support: David S. Alberts, Mark H. Greene

Provision of study materials or patients: Stephanie V. Blank, Paul DiSilvestro, Chad A. Hamilton, Katie Wakeley, Noah D. Kauff, Mark H. Greene

Collection and assembly of data: Mark E. Sherman, Marion Piedmonte, Phuong L. Mai, Olga B. Ioffe, Brigitte M. Ronnett, Linda Van Le, Iouri Ivanov, Maria C. Bell, Stephanie V. Blank, Paul DiSilvestro, Chad A. Hamilton, Krishnansu S. Tewari, Katie Wakeley, Noah D. Kauff, S. Diane Yamada, Karen Lu, Mark H. Greene

Data analysis and interpretation: Mark E. Sherman, Marion Piedmonte, Phuong L. Mai, Olga B. Ioffe, Stephanie V. Blank, Krishnansu S. Tewari, Noah D. Kauff, Gustavo Rodriguez, David S. Alberts, Joan L. Walker, Karen Lu, Mark H. Greene

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3281
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**Affiliations**

Mark E. Sherman, Phuong L. Mai, Lori Minasian, and Mark H. Greene, National Cancer Institute, Rockville; Olga B. Ioffe, University of Maryland Medical Center; Brigitte M. Ronnett, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore; Chad A. Hamilton, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda; MD; Marion Piedmonte, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo; Stephanie V. Blank, New York University School of Medicine; Noah D. Kauff, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; New York; NY; Linda Van Le, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC; Iouri Ivanov, Columbus Cancer Council, Columbus, OH; Maria C. Bell, Sanford University of South Dakota Medical Center, Sioux Falls, SD; Paul DiSilvestro, Women and Infants Hospital, Providence, RI; Krishnansu S. Tewari, University of California Medical Center Irvine, Orange, CA; Katie Wakeley, Tufts University; Steven J. Skates, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA; S. Diane Yamada, University of Chicago, Chicago; Gustavo Rodriguez, North Shore University Health System, Evanston, IL; David S. Alberts, University of Arizona Cancer Center, Tucson, AZ; Joan L. Walker, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK; and Karen Lu, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX.

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**GLOSSARY TERMS**

**BRCA1**: a tumor suppressor gene known to play a role in repairing DNA breaks. Mutations in this gene are associated with increased risks of developing breast or ovarian cancer.

**BRCA2**: a tumor suppressor gene whose protein product is involved in repairing chromosomal damage. Although structurally different from BRCA1, BRCA2 has cellular functions similar to BRCA1. BRCA2 binds to RAD51 to fix DNA breaks caused by irradiation and other environmental agents. Also known as the breast cancer 2 early onset gene.

**CA-125 (cancer antigen 125)**: a protein produced by the fallopian tubes, the endometrium, and the lining of the abdominal cavity (peritoneum). CA-125 is a tumor marker present in higher than normal amounts in the blood and urine of patients with certain cancers. Typically, women with ovarian cancer have high levels of CA-125. Other conditions associated with elevated levels of CA-125 include endometriosis, pancreatitis, pregnancy, normal menstruation, and pelvic inflammatory disease. CA-125 levels may be used to help diagnose ovarian cancer and to determine whether these tumors are responding to therapy. The normal range for CA-125 is less than 35 U/mL and less than 20 U/mL for women who have been treated for ovarian cancer. Women with ovarian cancer may show values higher than 65 U/mL.

**logistic regression**: a multivariable regression model in which the log of the odds of a time-fixed outcome event (eg, 30-day mortality) or other binary outcome is related to a linear equation.

**mutation**: a change of one base in a nucleotide sequence that may result in a change in the amino acid sequence.
Appendix

The following Gynecologic Oncology Group member institutions participated in the primary research study: Roswell Park Cancer Institute, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Duke University Medical Center, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Wayne State University, University of Minnesota Medical School, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Colorado Gynecologic Oncology Group, University of California at Los Angeles, University of Cincinnati, University of North Carolina School of Medicine, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Indiana University School of Medicine, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, University of California Medical Center at Irvine, Rush-Presbyterian-St Luke’s Medical Center, Magee Women’s Hospital, University of New Mexico, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Washington University School of Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center, Columbus Cancer Council, MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Women’s Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma, University of Virginia Health Sciences Center, University of Chicago, Mayo Clinic, Case Western Reserve University, Tampa Bay Cancer Consortium, Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group Clinical Trials Centre, Yale University, University of Wisconsin Hospital, Women and Infants Hospital, The Hospital of Central Connecticut, and Community Clinical Oncology Program, and Warren G. Magnuson Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health.

Table A1. Endometrial Carcinoma Characteristics at Baseline Elective Hysterectomy Performed Concurrently With RRSO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>BRCA1/2 Status</th>
<th>Menopausal Status</th>
<th>Ovarian Cancer</th>
<th>Breast Cancer</th>
<th>Tamoxifen Exposure</th>
<th>Preoperative CA-125</th>
<th>TVU</th>
<th>Histologic Type</th>
<th>Cytology</th>
<th>Stage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>BRCA1</td>
<td>Post</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>≥ 3</td>
<td>Never</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Serous carcinoma</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>IIIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>BRCA1</td>
<td>Post</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Prior</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Serous carcinoma</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Pre</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Never</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Mucinous carcinoma</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Post</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Known</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Mucinous carcinoma</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>IB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Pre</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Never</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Endometrioid carcinoma</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Post</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Never</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Endometrioid carcinoma</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>IA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: CA-125, cancer antigen 125; RRSO, risk-reducing salpingo-oophorectomy; TVU, transvaginal ultrasound.