

## Background Media Information

### European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO)

Leading Europe's Gynecologic Cancers Prevention, Care, Research and Education

#### About ESGO

ESGO is Europe's foremost organization in gynecologic cancers, dedicated to improving the survival and quality of life of European women with gynecologic (genital and breast) cancers by contributing to the prevention, treatment, and research of gynecologic cancer and the education of healthcare professionals and researchers worldwide.

Since its foundation in 1983, ESGO is a growing not-for profit organization and forum of more than 2,500 professionals from over 40 countries around the world, leading the way to advancing the highest quality of care for women with gynecologic cancers.

ESGO is strongly committed to this mission, focusing its efforts on 5 key objectives:

- Delivering high quality educational activities and improving training for all healthcare professionals working in the field of gynecologic cancer.
- Establishing multidisciplinary standards for the care of women with gynecologic cancers and acting as the European authority in the field.
- Creating a platform for collaborative clinical, translational and basic research in gynecologic cancers in Europe.
- Promoting collaboration of all physicians and healthcare professionals involved in care of women with genital and breast cancers, between scientific societies, patients' organisations, business, industry and governmental bodies.
- Raising public and governmental awareness of gynecologic cancers, their prevention and treatments.

## Advancing Care, Research and Education

To support its aims ESGO holds a **biennial Gynecologic Oncology Meeting**, publishes the **International Journal of Gynecological Cancer (IJGC)**, has set up formal guidelines of training in gynecologic oncology and runs European hospital accreditation.

Annually ESGO organizes numerous educational workshops with special emphasis on European countries where facilities and education are lacking, and also provides travelling fellowships to enhance communication and mobility within different European institutions and long-term clinical and research grants.

In addition, ESGO operates ENGOT, a **Pan-European Network of Gynaecological Oncological Trial groups**, which coordinates and promotes national and regional clinical trials within Europe, and established ENYGO, the **European Network of Young Gynaecological Oncologists**, to shape the future of female cancer research and treatment. Other ESGO Networks include: ENTRIGO, European Network of Translational Research in Gynaecological Oncology and ENITEC, European Network of Individualized Treatment in Endometrial Cancer as well as ENGAGe, the European Network of Gynaecological Cancer Advocacy Groups, the voice of gynaecological Cancer patients in Europe.

In 2013, ESGO launched an exclusive interactive educational portal, **eacademy.esgo.org**. The knowledge portal features the latest ESGO congresses presentations given by internationally renowned speakers on specialised issues of clinical importance in gynecologic oncology.

eAcademy collections include: Webcasts/Podcasts, ePosters, CME Accredited Courses as well as Learning Quizzes, eLectures, Postgraduate Surgical Videos, and much more.

In 2016, ESGO published the comprehensive Textbook in Gynecologic Oncology followed by the release of the complete Cancer in Pregnancy Textbook in 2017.

At the 20th biennial Congress in 2017, in Vienna, Austria, ESGO celebrated 30 years of excellence in advancing the field and launched the first edition of the Gynecologic Oncology pocket guidelines series, and the first ever Gynecologic Cancers Algorithms Mobile App designed to enhance practice and care.

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## ESGO's Position on Cervical Cancer Prevention

ESGO welcomes the excellent research which has led to the production of two HPV vaccines and the extremely encouraging data about vaccine efficacy. However, to date, no vaccine has been developed that protects against all oncogenic HPV types and therefore ESGO emphasizes that cervical cancer screening programmes remain pivotal in the prevention of cervical cancer.

### Cervical Cancer Prevalence Statistics<sup>1</sup>:

- There were almost 570,000 new cases of cervical cancer worldwide in 2018
  - 61,000 of these are across Europe
- Worldwide, cervical cancer is the fourth most common cause of cancer-related mortality in women after breast cancer, and the second most common female cancer in women aged 15 to 44 years
  - Nearly one third of cervical cancer diagnoses in Europe occur in women between the ages of 15 and 45 years
- An estimated 311,000 women died from cervical cancer worldwide in 2018, accounting for 7.5% of all female cancer deaths
  - 26,000 of these deaths were in Europe
- 87% of cervical cancer deaths occur in the less developed world regions
- Unless there is a dramatic improvement in prevention of cervical cancer and the incidence of the disease falls, by 2050, one million new cases of cervical cancer will be diagnosed each year

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### References

<sup>1</sup> International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) - Globocan.

<http://gco.iarc.fr/today/data/factsheets/cancers/23-Cervix-uteri-fact-sheet.pdf>. Accessed: 9.8.2019

<https://gco.iarc.fr/today/data/factsheets/populations/900-world-fact-sheets.pdf>. Accessed: 9.8.2019

ICO/IARC Information Centre on HPV and Cancer

<http://www.hpvcentre.net/statistics/reports/XWX.pdf> Accessed: 9.8.2019

Lancet Glob Health 2014.

[http://www.who.int/immunization/cost\\_effectiveness\\_of\\_human\\_papillomavirus.pdf](http://www.who.int/immunization/cost_effectiveness_of_human_papillomavirus.pdf) Accessed: 9.8.2019

## About HPV<sup>2</sup>:

- Persistent Infection with oncogenic HPV is the identified cause of cervical cancer
- HPV is a very common virus, which is easily transmitted through any sexual activity
- More than 150 types of HPV have been identified, including approximately 40 that infect the genital area, which can be divided into **two main** categories: high-risk (oncogenic) and low risk
- Most HPV infections are transient and cause no clinical problems; 70% of new cervical HPV infection will clear within 1 year, and approximately 90% within 2 years, but persistent infection with oncogenic HPV types may lead to cervical cancer
- Other diseases caused by oncogenic HPV include less common cancers such as anal, penile, vulvar, vaginal, head and neck cancers
- Low risk genital HPV types can cause benign or low-grade cervical cell changes, genital warts, and recurrent respiratory papillomatosis
- Approximately 70% of cervical cancer cases worldwide are caused by high-risk HPV types 16 and 18.

For further information contact:  
ESGO Media Office  
worldtoday@esgo.org  
www.esgo.org

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## References

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
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