

ACCELERATING SCIENCE — ADVANCING MEDICINE

The Division of Gynecologic Oncology at The Mount Sinai Medical Center takes a seamless, integrative approach to disease management. Our gynecologic oncologists are skilled in radical and minimally invasive surgery, experienced in the delivery and principles of chemotherapy and radiation, and committed to translational research.

As a member of the Gynecologic Oncology Group, we offer our patients access to national protocols and clinical trials. Current investigations and clinical trials are available for patients with ovarian, uterine, cervical, and endometrial cancers.

Our division is home to a multidisciplinary team of top surgeons, researchers, oncologists, nurses, and pharmacologists, all of whom are dedicated to the evaluation and management of surgical patients. We provide consultations, and administer chemotherapy in a unified and intimate setting designed to ensure patient privacy and comfort.

We are one of 35 centers in the United States where physicians can participate in a board-

approved Gynecologic Oncology fellowship-training program.

All of our therapeutic and surgical procedures are offered in collaboration with the foremost experts in early detection, diagnostic and interventional radiology, genetics, radiation therapy, palliative care, behavioral medicine, nutrition, and physical therapy. Our nurses are trained in cancer treatment services, and we employ on-site oncology pharmacists.

By providing patients with access to social services and internal support programs, we help them manage the challenges of their treatments, medications, and side effects in an environment that is emotionally supportive.



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To learn more, visit www.mountsinai.org/obgyn

TARGETED THERAPIES

Pioneers in Treatment



Mount Sinai's Division of Gynecologic Oncology was founded in 1967, before the discipline received official designation as a sub-specialty of The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Since then, we have been pioneers in the treatment of all gynecologic cancers – the most common type of cancer in women after breast, lung, and colon cancers.

We offer comprehensive services that include familial risk assessment, early-detection screening, vaccine and targeted therapies, chemotherapy and radiation, participation in clinical trials, and post-treatment surveillance of patients with cancers of the vulva, cervix, uterus, fallopian tube, and ovary; and cancers related to accidents of conception and implantation.

As part of the surgical management of patients, we provide a comprehensive range of treatments for gynecologic malignancies and complex benign gynecologic conditions. These include ovarian cytoreduction and debulking, urologic and bowel surgery, lymphadenectomy, port implantation, and laser and laparoscopic surgeries. "We were early adaptors in the use of robotic surgical systems," says Herbert F. Gretz, MD, MBA, Director of Gynecologic Oncology. "Now, we utilize state-of-the-art technology to screen for and treat all types of gynecologic cancers, and our research team is dedicated to improving treatments, and, ultimately, finding a cure for these cancers."

Our faculty members have been pioneers in investigating optimal chemotherapeutic regimens for patients with gynecologic cancers that have led to significant improvements in outcomes. As the division that contributes one of the largest volumes of cancer cases to The Mount Sinai Medical Center, we are a primary component in the support of basic science research.

Herbert F. Gretz, MD, MBA, Division Director of Gynecologic Oncology

PERSONALIZED MEDICINE

Minimally Invasive Surgery

Innovative new procedures being utilized at Mount Sinai to reduce patient discomfort and length of hospital stay include Laparoscopic Total Hysterectomy (LTH) and Laparoscopic Supracervical Hysterectomy (LSH). In addition, the daVinci® Surgical System is being used to perform Robotic procedures for complex benign and malignant conditions.

“Though not all pelvic surgeries can be performed by robotics, we began using this technique many years before it was considered acceptable in most medical centers,” said Charles Ascher-Walsh, MD, Director of Gynecology. “Now, approximately 60 percent of our gynecologic surgeries are performed using a minimally invasive approach.”

The robotic system translates a surgeon's hand movements at a console into real-time procedures inside a patient. Through incisions that are one- to two-

centimeters long, and enhanced three-dimensional visualization, surgeons can operate with greater precision and control, minimizing the pain and risk associated with large incisions while increasing the likelihood of a fast recovery and excellent clinical outcomes.



Charles Ascher-Walsh, MD,
Director of Gynecology

RESEARCH FRONTIERS

Discovering Better Diagnostics

Mount Sinai is home to the Ovarian Cancer Translational Research Group led by Peter Dottino, MD, and John Martignetti, MD, PhD, who are researching markers for early detection and prevention of ovarian cancer. They are investigating ways to identify molecules secreted by tumors at the earliest stage of tumor formation that can be detected by a blood test.



Researchers are investigating markers for early detection of ovarian cancer.

David Fishman, MD, Director of Gynecologic Oncology Research, leads the National Ovarian Cancer Early Detection Program at Mount Sinai, an international clinical and scientific effort to develop methods that accurately detect early-stage ovarian cancer. More women die from ovarian cancer than from all other gynecologic cancers combined. The purpose of this program is to identify and optimize care for women who are at increased risk for developing ovarian cancer, and to develop new tests to detect ovarian cancer at an early, and more treatable, stage.

PATIENT SUPPORT

Woman to Woman Program Helps Patients and Families



Arden Moulton, Program Director

Woman to Woman is a unique network of trained volunteer survivors of gynecologic cancer who provide hope, one-on-one support, education, and advocacy for women in treatment at Mount Sinai, their partners, and families. All women being treated at Mount Sinai are offered the opportunity to participate in the program by being matched with a survivor volunteer. The program started in 2003.

“From their first meeting with a woman to the end of her treatment, our volunteers help patients adjust to their new lives as cancer survivors,” says Arden Moulton, Program Director. “Woman to Woman volunteers also educate health care providers and medical students about the symptoms of gynecologic cancer, and the physical and emotional challenges faced by patients and families.”

Survivor volunteers also speak to second-year medical students to heighten awareness of, and sensitivity to, the patient's point of view. Students learn about the symptoms and the survivors' experiences with missed diagnoses and insensitive doctors, information that can help make them better humanitarians and scientists.

Male partners of women diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer are often overlooked by health care workers, family, and friends resulting in confusion, anxiety, and anger. To help address the needs of this unique group, Woman to Woman created a “Guide for Male Partners,” which contains information on gynecologic cancer, treatment and side effects, sexuality, finances, how to deal with family and friends, and resources for each topic.