

# Gynecologic Oncology Program



JOHN MUIR  
HEALTH

A long-standing provider of exceptional care, John Muir Health offers one of the most progressive gynecologic oncology programs in Northern California. The Gynecologic Oncology Program at John Muir Health provides expert and patient centered care for women with gynecologic cancers. The cancer program is accredited through the American College of Surgeons/Commission on Cancer (ACoS/CoC).

Our Gynecologic Oncology specialists are committed to providing the best and most personalized treatment options available and offer the full range of services of a top-ranked national cancer program. Our Program serves as a major referral center for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with either suspected or known cancers of the female genital tract.

Our Gynecologic Oncology Program has a multi-disciplinary team of physicians including gynecologic oncologists, radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, pathologists and radiologists who are committed to providing the best and most personalized treatment options available.

All of the gynecologic oncologists in our program are board certified or eligible in gynecologic oncology. They perform all aspects of gynecologic cancer surgery and complex benign gynecologic surgery using the latest surgical procedures including minimally invasive and robotic-assisted approaches. Our program also has a strong emphasis on Clinical Trials.

Our surgeons perform a high volume of malignant and complex benign cases with a demonstrated high percentage rate of complete and optimal cytoreduction. Research has shown that a patient's surgical outcome is the strongest indicator for better disease-free interval (DFI) and overall survival.

## Our Promise to Referring Physicians

Our promise to you and your patients include the following:

- Minimal wait times (in most cases less than one week) for appointments with surgical specialists.
- Your patients will have access to postoperative ancillary services

such as social workers, nutritionists, physical therapists and specially trained surgical recovery nurses. This team approach will help to better prepare the patients for an expedited recovery following gynecologic cancer surgery.

- Ongoing communication of surgical treatment summaries and post-operative follow-up care.
- Open invitation to attend and present your patients at our multi-disciplinary gynecologic oncology tumor boards.
- Personalized care for your patients including a nurse navigator who will follow your patient through her hospital experience and beyond.

Our Surgical expertise covers all types of gynecologic cancers, complex benign cases and women at high-risk for developing a cancer. A partial list of conditions treated at John Muir Health is as follows:

- Cervical cancer
- Endometrial/uterine cancer
- Ovarian cancer – including fallopian tube and primary peritoneal, germ cell and stromal tumors
- Trophoblastic disease
- Vaginal cancer
- Vulvar cancer
- High risk genetic predisposition of hereditary cancers

## A Multidisciplinary Approach

Our Multidisciplinary Tumor Board, comprised of physicians and healthcare professionals with expertise in gynecologic cancers, reviews each patient's clinical data and provides evidence-based treatment recommendations.

Your patients benefit from the collaborative efforts of a highly skilled team of experienced specialists, including:

- Gynecologic Oncologists
- Medical Oncologists
- Radiation Oncologists
- Pathologists
- Radiologists
- Board Certified Genetic Counselor
- Gynecologic Oncology Nurse Navigator
- Clinical Research Nurse

## State-of-the-Art Therapeutic & Surgical Capabilities

### **Minimally Invasive Robotic-Assisted Surgery**

Whenever possible, we offer minimally invasive procedures including robotic and laparoscopic approaches. Robotic surgery offers significant benefits for women including shorter hospital stays, less discomfort and a shorter recovery period.

### **Laparotomy**

We also recognize that not all patients are good candidates for minimally invasive surgery and for those patients we provide other treatment options designed to produce the best possible outcomes.

### **Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC)**

HIPEC is an alternative treatment for a select patient population with recurrent gynecologic cancers. This is a two-part treatment that begins with cytoreductive surgery. During the surgery and directly following the cytoreduction, a tumor-specific chemotherapy agent is heated and then circulated throughout the abdominal cavity for 90 minutes (to a temperature of 107 degrees Fahrenheit). Having this combination therapy available as a treatment can be invaluable to patients with recurrent disease who may otherwise have limited options.

The major advantage of HIPEC is the regional dose intensity of the chemotherapy agent. Results show improved effectiveness. John Muir Health is one of a few medical centers in Northern California that offer HIPEC as an option to their patients.

### **Radical Trachelectomy**

This is the removal of the cervix, parametria, part of the vagina, and the lymph nodes. The uterus is not removed. This is an option for a select group of young women with early cervical cancer who wish to maintain childbearing abilities.

### **High Dose Rate (HDR) Brachytherapy**

This involves the precise placement of radiation sources directly at the site of the tumor affecting a very localized area. Radiation exposure to healthy tissue is significantly reduced, therefore decreasing treatment-related side effects.

## **Our Patient Centered Care Includes:**

### **Clinical Trials**

John Muir Health participates in a number of Gynecologic Oncology Group/NRG and Yale University research studies. Whenever possible, we are committed to offering Phase II and Phase III trials for each gynecologic cancer patient.

### **Surgical Team**

We have a dedicated team of anesthesiologists, surgical nurses, ICU nurses and a post-operative surgical unit that provides a smooth recovery with high patient satisfaction.

### **Genetic Counselor**

Patients who have a hereditary cancer, or are at high risk for developing one, have access to genetic counseling. Our genetic counselors help patients understand their risks and the different ways to manage and mitigate them. A consultation focuses on a complete family medical history to assess a patient's risk for, and identification of hereditary syndromes.

## **Nurse Navigator**

Our nurse navigator has expert knowledge in gynecologic oncology and is available to guide and support patients and their families through their surgical recovery, treatment process and beyond.

## **Support Groups**

A partner with John Muir Health, the Cancer Support Community offers gynecologic and ovarian cancer support groups.

## **Strong Community Partnerships**

Our relationships with the American Cancer Society and the Cancer Support Community allow additional resources to be available to our patients.

## **Survivorship Program**

This program is available to assist patients with post-therapy care plans after completion of treatment.

We know that effective treatment for gynecologic cancer requires a strong, trusting partnership between you and your patient. When you refer your patients to John Muir Health, you expand that partnership to include a multidisciplinary team that complements your efforts to provide your patients with the highest standards of care. We are here for you and your patients – every day, every step of the way.

**Visit [johnmuirhealth.com/services](http://johnmuirhealth.com/services) or call (925) 947-3322.**

# Gynecologic Oncology Program Results

## 2010-2015

Our high-volume center for the treatment of ovarian cancer compares to the top 5.5% cancer centers nationwide.\*

Number malignant and complex benign cases	2,916
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Number epithelial ovarian, primary peritoneal & fallopian tube cancer cases (2007-2015)	313
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Number of low malignant potential ovarian tumors (2007-2015)	64
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Number of non-epithelial ovarian malignancies (2007-2015)	20
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Number of Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC) cases (2010-2015)	28
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Number of robotic cases (2007-2015)	1,115
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2015 Expanded program capabilities to include high-dose rate (HDR) Brachytherapy.

\*Source: [Gynecologic Oncology](#), 136, (2015), 11-17