

Alternative strategies to prevent ovarian cancer

Robert Fruscio

BRCA mutation carriers have a high risk of developing ovarian cancer lifetime. The risk significantly increases from the age of 50, and therefore all international guidelines recommend performing surgical removal of fallopian tubes and ovaries within 40 and 45 years of age in BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation carriers, respectively. However, surgical removal of the adnexa results in premature menopause, which cannot be treated with hormone replacement therapies in many cases, due to previous breast cancer. Since there are evidences that high grade serous cancer arises in the epithelium of the fallopian tube in the majority of cases, preservation of the ovaries might be proposed in many cases. The focus of this presentation is to show a non-invasive method to identify pre-malignant lesion in the fallopian tubes through the collection of cells in vaginal swabs in women at risk of developing ovarian cancer.