CHICAGO, Ill., ALEXANDRIA, Va. – The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) today issued a joint clinical practice guideline on ovarian cancer treatment. The guideline provides evidence-based recommendations on whether to use neoadjuvant chemotherapy (NACT) or surgery as the initial treatment for women with stage IIIC and IV epithelial ovarian cancers which account for 70-80% of all ovarian cancers.

“This guideline is a big step forward in one of the most contentious areas within gynecologic oncology,” said Alexi A. Wright, MD, MPH, co-chair and ASCO’s representative on the Expert Panel that developed the guideline. “It provides clear recommendations to help patients and physicians make more evidence-based and informed decisions when women are first diagnosed with ovarian cancer.”

Key guideline recommendations:

- All women with suspected stage IIIC or IV invasive epithelial ovarian cancer should be evaluated by a gynecologic oncologist prior to initiation of therapy to determine whether they are candidates for primary cytoreductive surgery (PCS).
- Women who have a high perioperative risk profile or a low likelihood of achieving cytoreduction to less than 1 cm (ideally to no visible disease) should receive NACT.
- Women who are fit for PCS, with potentially resectable disease, may receive either NACT or PCS.
  - For women with a high likelihood of achieving cytoreduction to less than 1 cm (ideally to no visible disease disease), PCS is recommended over NACT.
  - For women who are fit for PCS but are deemed by a gynecologic oncologist as unlikely to have cytoreduction to less than 1 cm (ideally to no visible disease), NACT is recommended over PCS.

“This guideline represents an important collaboration between the SGO and ASCO,” said Mitchell I.
Edelson, MD, co-chair and SGO’s representative on the Expert Panel that developed the guideline. “These evidence-based recommendations will improve the quality of care provided to women with ovarian cancer.”

The guideline, *Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy for Newly Diagnosed, Advanced Ovarian Cancer: Society of Gynecologic Oncology and American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline*, was published today in both the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* and *Gynecologic Oncology*.

The guideline recommendations were developed by a multidisciplinary expert panel with expertise in gynecologic oncology and medical oncology. In addition, a patient advocacy representative was included to provide a patient perspective. The expert panel conducted a systematic review of literature published between March 20, 2005, and March 20, 2015.

ASCO and SGO believe that cancer clinical trials are vital to inform medical decisions and improve cancer care and that all patients should have the opportunity to participate.

For an embargoed copy of the guideline, please contact Amanda Narod at amanda.narod@asco.org and 571-483-1795 or Elizabeth Edwards at elizabeth.edwards@sgo.org and 312-676-3911.

Information providing insight on these recommendations for patients is available at Cancer.Net. The guideline will be available at ASCO.org, along with supplementary materials.

ASCO encourages feedback on its guidelines from oncologists, practitioners, and patients through the ASCO Guidelines Wiki.

###

**About ASCO:**

Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. (ASCO®) is committed to making a world of difference in cancer care. As the world’s leading organization of its kind, ASCO represents more than 40,000 oncology professionals who care for people living with cancer. Through research, education, and promotion of the highest-quality patient care, ASCO works to conquer cancer and create a world where cancer is prevented or cured, and every survivor is healthy. ASCO is supported by its affiliate organization, the Conquer Cancer Foundation. Learn more at www.ASCO.org, explore patient education resources at www.Cancer.Net, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.
About SGO

The Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) is the premier medical specialty society for health care professionals trained in the comprehensive management of gynecologic cancers. As a 501(c)(6) organization, the SGO contributes to the advancement of women’s cancer care by encouraging research, providing education, raising standards of practice, advocating for patients and members and collaborating with other domestic and international organizations.