

Oregon Health & Science University

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MEDIA ADVISORY

OHSU releases new research about screening recommendations for certain types of cancer such as prostate, breast and cervical. Researchers found that screening for the listed cancers are less effective than previously thought. In fact, excessive screening can be harmful and could lead to procedures that are not needed. The hospital is holding a news conference to educate people about the new screening recommendations and to clarify any misconceptions.

WHO: Kathleen Kemmer, MD, breast cancer specialist
Katharine L. Barford, MD, breast and cervical cancer specialist
Joshi Alumkal, MD, prostate cancer specialist

WHY: OHSU cancer specialists want to be proactive in educating people about the information regarding newfound research and new screening recommendations to benefit patient health and promote disease prevention.

WHAT: Free news conference hosted by OHSU. Oregon’s top three cancer specialists are on the panel.

WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 15, from 6-8 p.m.

WHERE: Oregon Convention Center
777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd,
Portland, or 97232

About the Panel

Dr. Kathleen Kemmer specializes in solid tumor oncology, breast cancer, and head and neck cancer. She has been in practice for 19 years and one of Oregon’s top cancer specialists. Dr. Katharine Barford specializes in breast cancer, uterine cancer, ovarian cancer, cervical cancer and blood diseases and has been in practice for 12 years. Dr. Joshi Alumkal specializes in caring for men with all stages of prostate cancer.



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CANCER SCREENING FACT SHEET

- In 2009, screening guidelines said that women in their 40s do not appear to benefit from mammograms and that women ages 50 to 74 should consider them every two years instead of every year.
- Oregon and Washington consistently have some of the highest rates of breast cancer in the U.S.
- American Cancer Society recommends yearly mammograms for women age 45-54 and women age 55 and older should switch to every two years. Women can choose to start screening as early as 40 years old if desired.
- New Cervical Cancer testing guidelines recommend women 21-29 having a Pap test done every three years instead of the previous recommendation of yearly testing. Women 30-65 should have a Pat test and an HPV test done every five years.
- Women over 65 who have been testing with normal results in the past 10 years should not be tested for cervical cancer unless there is previous history of a serious cervical pre-cancer, then she should be tested for at least 20 years after that diagnosis.
- American Cancer Society believes men should not be tested for prostate cancer without first learning about what we know and don't know about the risks and possible benefits of testing and treatment.
- Men shouldn't consider testing for prostate cancer until age 50 unless you are African American or have a father or brother who had had prostate cancer; then you should talk with a healthcare provider starting at age 45.
- Prostate cancer research has not yet proven that the potential benefits of testing outweigh the harms of testing and treatment.
- OHSU states that screening and risk reduction programs in communities and in healthcare settings can avoid 30 percent of cancer deaths.

Subject line: OHSU New Cancer Screening Recommendations

Dennis,

OHSU is hosting a news conference with a panel of Oregon's top three cancer specialists to address the new breast, prostate and cervical cancer screening recommendations for patients. The event takes place at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland on Thursday, Nov. 15 from 6-8 p.m.

Your readers will be interested about the new cancer screening recommendations released by OHSU. Your background with health and knowledge of various types of cancers make you the best-experienced report to cover this story.

Screening guidelines were last updated in 2002. What research found is that the previous cancer screening guidelines were causing more harm to patient health. For more information about the panelists and new recommendations please visit www.ohsu.edu.

Thank you,
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