

CA CONNections

Member Newsletter of The Connecticut Cancer Partnership



Winter 2017

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month HPV Vaccination Is Cancer Prevention

Each year, in the United States 31,000 women and men are diagnosed with a cancer caused by HPV infection, including 12,000 cases of cervical cancer which lead to deaths of 4,000 women. Most of these cancers could be prevented by HPV vaccination. Many of these cancers can be either prevented or found early, when it is easier to treat. Vaccination for human papillomavirus (HPV) can protect women and girls against the types of HPV that cause most cervical cancers. CDC's Inside Knowledge: Get the Facts about Gynecologic Cancer campaign raises awareness about cervical and other gynecologic cancers.

New Guidelines on HPV Vaccination

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended a change in the dosing schedule for HPV vaccine, according to a December 16, 2016 [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) article. HPV vaccination can prevent many types of HPV that cause cervical cancer, as well as other cancers in men and women. For males and females vaccinating before their 15th birthday, ACIP recommends 2 doses of vaccine. Those ages 15 and above should have three doses of vaccine.

HPV vaccination can protect your children from several types of cancers, including cervical cancer. Get HPV vaccine for your sons and daughters at ages 11-12 to protect them from cancers caused by HPV infections.

HPV vaccination prevents more than just cervical cancer. Vaccination can prevent uncomfortable testing and treatment even for cervical precancers. Each year in the U.S. more than 300,000 women endure invasive testing and treatment for lesions (changes in the cells) on the cervix that can develop into cancers. Testing and treatment for these "precancers" can have lasting effects.

However, cervical cancer only accounts for 1 in 3 cancers caused by HPV infection. While there is screening for cervical cancer, there is no routine screening for the other 20,000 cancers caused by HPV infections each year in the United States. Often these cancers—such as cancers of the back of the throat (oropharynx) and cancers of the

The Connecticut Cancer Partnership unites the members of our state's diverse cancer community—academic and clinical institutions, state and local government health agencies, industry and insurers, advocacy and community groups, and cancer survivors. Together, the coalition has developed and is now implementing a comprehensive plan to reduce the suffering and death due to cancer, and improve the quality of life of cancer survivors throughout Connecticut.

Visit our newly improved website:
ctcancerpartnership.org

Submissions

Please submit articles and/or suggestions to:

[Lucinda Hogarty](#)

CA CONNections is produced by the Connecticut Cancer Partnership

Editorial Staff
Renee Gaudette
Lucinda Hogarty
Marion Morra

P 203-379-4860
F 203-379-5052
www.ctcancerpartnership.org

anus/rectum-aren't detected until later stages when they are difficult to treat. [CDC resource](#) and [here](#).

January is Radon Awareness Month

Breathing radon over prolonged periods may damage lung tissue. Exposure to radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers in the United States. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that radon causes more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths in the country each year. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths. If you smoke and your home has radon, your risk of developing lung cancer can be much higher.

Health officials estimate that radon is responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States. Radon is an invisible, odorless, radioactive gas that can enter your home through foundation cracks. The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) urges all Connecticut residents to test their homes for radon gas in the colder months when radon tends to be highest.

One in fifteen homes in the United States has unsafe radon levels. Testing homes for radon is simple, inexpensive and quick. Test kits can be purchased from the American Lung Association of New England by calling 1-800-LUNG-USA or visiting their website at www.lung.org. Test kits can also be found at local hardware stores. Testing is the only way to know if your home has an elevated level. Radon is a serious health threat, but it can be easily fixed.

For more information about radon, radon resistant new construction, and a list of radon professionals, visit the CT DPH Radon Program website at [Radon Information](#).

Hospice House Campaign Receives \$25,000 Pledge from Chelsea Groton Foundation

Norwich, CT (December 20, 2016) – Center for Hospice Care announced that Chelsea Groton Foundation has made a \$25,000 pledge for the organization's Hospice House campaign. The first payment was given to Center for Hospice Care by the Foundation's Board of Trustees Member Mary Ellen Jukowski earlier today. This generous contribution helps put the fund raising for the project at \$5.8 million of the previously announced \$7.5 million goal.

Christie Williams, Vice President of Philanthropy of Center for Hospice Care, said "As a leading philanthropic force in Southeast Connecticut, the generous support of Chelsea Groton Foundation makes a huge difference in the progress of our Hospice House Campaign."

"We are truly grateful to the Chelsea Groton Foundation for their support," added Carol Mahier, President/CEO of Center for Hospice Care. "Hospice House will fill a critical gap in the continuum of end-of-life care here in Eastern Connecticut, by providing care to hospice patients who are too sick to be cared for at home."

Center for Hospice Care will build Hospice House as part of its Norwich-based campus, on 7.5 acres of land that was donated to the organization in 2008 by Sts. Peter and Paul Church of Norwich. Hospice House will include a toy-filled children's playroom, a chapel, a library, and a dining café with food service. All 12 patient suites will be

fully private singles and will open onto a courtyard garden. When all 12 patient suites are in full operation, Hospice House will annually serve 700-800 patients. Those interested in learning more about Hospice House can visit a specially created new website for the project at <https://hospicehouse.hospicesect.org>.

For Some Breast Cancer Survivors, Drug May Reduce Treatment-Related Joint Pain

January 4, 2017, by NCI Staff

A drug most commonly used to treat depression may also reduce joint pain in some women being treated for early-stage breast cancer, according to the results of a randomized clinical trial.

After undergoing treatment for early-stage breast cancer, many postmenopausal women take drugs known as aromatase inhibitors to reduce the risk of the cancer returning. These drugs, however, can cause significant pain in women's joints and muscles.

A clinical trial showed that duloxetine (Cymbalta®), which is approved to treat depression and anxiety as well as fibromyalgia and nerve pain caused by diabetes, provided some relief from pain associated with aromatase inhibitors.

https://www.cancer.gov/news-events/cancer-currents-blog/2017/duloxetine-breast-joint-pain?cid=eb_govdel



Connecticut Cancer Partnership | 825 Brook Street | I-91 Tech Center | Rocky Hill | CT | 06067