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[MCC Calendar of Events](#)

HPV cancer rates are up. Yet many Michigan dentists won't talk about it.

Bridge, September 2019

In its fight against a sexually-transmitted human papillomavirus (HPV), Michigan's health department is hoping to recruit a surprising ally: dentists.

While common and generally not life-threatening, HPV also can trigger a host of cancers, and rates are rising: 43,371 cancers were associated with the virus in the United States in 2015, up from 30,115 in 1999, according to a report in August by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Among those cancers, oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma — cancer in the soft palate, the side and back of the throat, the tonsils and the back of the tongue — has become the most common. In Michigan, about 620 cases those types of cancers are registered each year, according to another CDC report.

Because dentists are often the first to spot the telltale mouth lesions, and other markers of such cancers, the state has reached out to dental professionals to encourage the controversial HPV vaccine among their patients.

Doctors now know that HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection. It can cause genital warts. Most times, it causes no symptoms at all. But because of the cancers it can trigger, the CDC recommends the first of a two-dose vaccine be given to 11- and 12-year-olds. For young adults who missed the vaccines, "catch-up" vaccines are recommended through age 26 under expanded recommendations released in June by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

ACIP encouraged dentists to discuss the individual benefits of the catch-up vaccine with older patients, depending on their risk factors.

To learn more about efforts to increase [HPV vaccination rates in Michigan, read the full article here.](#)



Safety of pregnancy following breast cancer in patients carrying a pathogenic BRCA variant: Results of an international cohort study

Submitted by the Michigan Cancer Genetics Alliance

The largest known study on pregnancy after breast cancer in BRCA pathogenic variant carriers was recently presented in Chicago at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting (M. Lambertini, et.al). The results show that for BRCA pathogenic variant carriers who have had invasive early breast cancer, pregnancy is a possibility. This is beneficial information when discussing fertility with young women who carry a pathogenic BRCA variant.

The international, 30–center, hospital-based, retrospective cohort study included 1,252 participants who were diagnosed with invasive breast cancer (stage I to stage III) between 2000 and 2012. All of these women were 40 years old or younger and known BRCA variant carriers (811 with BRCA1, 430 with BRCA2, and 11 with BRCA1 & BRCA2). Of these individuals, 195 pregnancies occurred for a 16% pregnancy rate. The median time after the diagnosis of breast cancer for a pregnancy was 4.5 years. Of the 150 pregnancies that were not terminated or spontaneously aborted, 170 babies were born, and pregnancy complications were noted in 13 (11.6%) and congenital anomalies in 2 (1.8%) of the cases.

Case-control comparison matching (1:3) was performed as well as an extended Cox model to account for guarantee-time bias when performing survival analyses. The median follow-up time was 8.3 years, at which point patients who were pregnant had better disease-free survival compared with controls (HR 0.71; 95% CI 0.51-0.99; $p = 0.045$), and no difference in rates of overall survival (HR 0.86; 95% CI 0.44-1.67; $p = 0.65$). This appears to have potentially been influenced by patient baseline characteristics, as these patients were younger at the time of diagnosis, consisted of more individuals with BRCA1 pathogenic variants than BRCA2 pathogenic variants, had more hormone receptor negative tumors, and more node-negative disease than those who did not have a pregnancy.

In summary, women who became pregnant after early onset breast cancer had no difference in overall survival compared to women who did not become pregnant. Further investigation via subgroup analysis revealed that improved disease-free survival was seen in carriers of BRCA1, although more research is required to further understand this observation.

Reference: Lambertini, M., Ameye, L., Hamy, A., Zingarello, A., Poorvu, P. D., Carrasco, E., Azim, H. A. (2019). Safety of pregnancy following breast cancer (BC) in patients (pts) carrying a BRCA mutation (mBRCA): Results of an international cohort study. [Abstract]. *J Clin Oncol*, 37 (suppl; abstr 11506).



Funding Opportunity! Susan G. Komen's Community Grants Request for Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 13, 2019 at 11:59 PM
PERFORMANCE PERIOD: April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021
AWARD NOTIFICATION: March 2020

Susan G. Komen is the world's largest breast cancer organization, funding more breast cancer research than any other nonprofit outside of the U.S. government while providing real-time help to those facing the disease. Komen has set a Bold Goal to reduce the current number of breast cancer deaths by 50 percent in the U.S. by 2026. Since its founding in 1982, Komen has funded more than \$956 million in research and provided more than \$2.1 billion in funding to screening, education, treatment and psychosocial support programs. Komen has worked in more than 60 countries worldwide. Komen was founded by Nancy G. Brinker, who promised her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would end the disease that claimed Suzy's life. Komen Michigan has invested nearly \$13 million in community breast health programs in 24 counties and has helped contribute to the more than \$988 million invested globally in research.

Komen Michigan supports breast cancer projects that address Screening and Diagnostic, Breast Cancer Education and Outreach, and Survivorship Programs, which were selected based on data from our current Community Profile Report, found on our website at komenmichigan.org.

For more information on this funding opportunity please visit the [Susan G. Komen Request for Applications Page](#).

Cancer Survivorship Rehabilitation and Pain Management

MDHHS, 2019

For cancer survivors the disease and its treatment cause a variety of negative physical, emotional, psychological, and financial effects. Cancer-related pain is one of the most common and most feared complications among these patients. The Michigan Cancer Consortium (MCC) has prioritized the goal of cancer survivor pain reduction, aiming to decrease the percentage of Michigan post-treatment survivors reporting physical pain due to cancer treatment by 10 percent, as reported by Michigan's Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, by 2020.

This paper offers an overview of several rehabilitation pain management approaches, methods for determining patient suitability for these interventions, and direction for referring patients to rehabilitation services, as well as profiles of cancer rehabilitation programs in Michigan and case study examples of patients whose pain was effectively addressed through rehabilitation approaches.

To read the full text, visit the [Cancer Survivorship Rehabilitation and Pain Management Paper](#).



Breast Cancer Awareness License Plates

You can support Breast Cancer screening and early detection programs by purchasing a breast cancer awareness license plate at your Michigan Secretary of State office.

The license plate features the pink ribbon, widely known as the symbol for breast cancer awareness, along with an important screening message at the bottom of the plate that reads “Early Detection Saves Lives.” A portion of the proceeds from license plate sales will go toward MDHHS’s breast and cervical cancer screening services program to help ensure that eligible women in underserved populations have access to this important, and possibly life-saving, health resource. \$25 of the \$35 fee will go towards the program when a plate is first bought and \$10 each time it’s renewed.

To purchase a plate by mail or fax, complete and print the [Breast Cancer Awareness License Plate Order Form](#). Check for the availability of a personalized Breast Cancer Awareness plate using [Plate it Your Way](#).

2019 MCC Meetings

2019 Annual Meeting:
Thursday, October 24

For more information contact Amy Stagg at StaggA@michigan.gov.

MCC Website

Be sure to visit the [MCC Website](#) to find provider and patient resources.

Health Equity Corner

Health Equity Member Organization Highlight

Sisters Network Greater Metropolitan Detroit Chapter

Power in Knowledge (PINK)

Sisters Network Greater Metropolitan Detroit Chapter (SNGMDC) raises awareness and provides educational materials, with a focus on breast health in order to dispel myths to African American teens in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties. The primary goal of PINK is to educate 100 teen girls to become PINK Ambassadors and then share their knowledge of breast cancer survival awareness, ways to dispel myths, and encourage their family, friends, and community to get screened.

SNGMDC has educated 227 teens girls (168 – African Americans; 30 – Asians; 1 – Middle Eastern; 28 – Hispanic/Latino). SNGMDC has conducted 39 workshops/sessions, which included teens at Cass Tech, Renaissance High School, The Detroit International Academy of Young Women, and the GEMS group in Southfield. The PINK Ambassadors have interviewed 328 family and friends, which allowed them to start a conversation related to breast health and wellness.