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Thank You for Participating!

Your participation, the stories you tell, and the information you provide are so important. In the first survey, you shared a lot about your personal and family history and about some of your personal views. We want to follow up in a few months to see how your treatment and surveillance has continued, how your recovery is going, and overall how you are doing and feeling. This follow up survey will really help us gain a fuller picture of your treatment history and your road to recovery—your successes and your challenges. **We hope that you will continue to say, “Yes!”**

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Hello, again, from the Carolina Endometrial Cancer Study!

It has been a few years since our first participant joined the study and we already have a better understanding of endometrial cancer diagnosis, treatment, and survival. However, disparities and the burden of endometrial cancer are increasing in the United States. We hope this study will improve the lives of survivors in North Carolina and across the country. Your participation makes this work possible.

We will continue to ask how participants' lives have changed after their diagnosis, and you may be hearing from us again soon. Until then, please accept this newsletter with our heartfelt thanks. You have made this study the best it can be!

In this edition, we share with you recent research findings. We have a highlight on the opening of the Endometrial Cancer Center of Excellence. We also share a story on the importance of studying endometrial cancer in North Carolina.

As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions. Let us know how to improve this study and make the most of your participation. We know your time is valuable, and we appreciate your participation. We could not do it without you!

— *Andrew Olshan and Hazel Nichols*

Meet the Study Team

Andrew Olshan, PhD — Principal Investigator

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Studying endometrial cancer is more important than ever for North Carolina

Endometrial cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women in the United States, and the numbers in North Carolina have been increasing. Black women are more likely to have worse outcomes after their diagnosis. Understanding the causes of poor outcomes and finding solutions to improve well-being for endometrial cancer survivors is a priority for researchers. North Carolina is one of the most diverse states in the country. It makes it an ideal setting to study survivorship at different ages, in different communities, and in different parts of the state.

Launch of the UNC Endometrial Cancer Center of Excellence

Endometrial cancer has not gotten the attention it deserves. The Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center at UNC-Chapel Hill hopes to change that. The start of the Endometrial Cancer Center of Excellence is underway. Dr. Victoria L. Bae-Jump, a gynecologic oncologist at UNC, is the director of the new center. The goal of the center is to improve outcomes for all women with endometrial cancer. The center will study new treatments, preventive methods, and the causes of poor outcomes.

The Carolina Endometrial Cancer Study is aligned with the UNC Endometrial Cancer Center of Excellence. Researchers at the Center are experts in endometrial cancer. They have experience in disparities research and working with diverse populations. We hope our work in North Carolina serves as a model for institutions across the country. We look forward to sharing new research findings and developments from this partnership.

Improving patient experience with multimedia counseling before surgery

UNC Researchers are studying new patient education forms. This is to improve healthcare experiences for women with endometrial cancer. There was a new trial that looked into the effect of multimedia counseling. One group watched videos explaining surgeries and the related risks and expectations. After watching the videos, they had physician counseling. The researchers compared this group to a group that only got physician counseling. The multimedia group had higher patient satisfaction.

Exploring the link between endometrial cancer and cardiovascular disease

Endometrial cancer and cardiovascular disease (CVD) share common risk factors, for example, obesity, age, and medical history. CVD is the number one cause of death among women in the United States. It is also the leading cause of death among endometrial cancer survivors. Researchers at UNC studied cardiovascular disease in women with endometrial cancer. They included more than 44,000 women with endometrial cancer, and they had more than 220,000 women without endometrial cancer.

Women with endometrial cancer had a higher risk of cardiovascular diseases (for example, heart disease, disease of the arteries, disease of the veins.). Their CVD risk was higher at one year and five years after diagnosis. These findings are beneficial for survivorship care. They can guide doctors to watch for CVD risks in endometrial cancer survivors so that women can get appropriate care for CVD prevention and management.

Meet the CECS Staff



Vicki Brown — Telephone Interviewer

She enrolls participants and conducts their phone surveys. She has over 27 years of experience as a licensed social worker while contributing to several research studies.



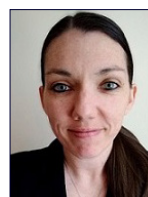
Linda Shaw — Telephone Interviewer

She enrolls participants and conducts their phone surveys. She has been involved in cancer research at UNC since 2010. She really enjoys getting to know people in the study and hearing about their experiences.



Heather Tiplados, MS — Project Director

She manages administration and study staff, enrollment coordination, and data collection. She brings experience from a wide range of cancer studies like CECS.



Jena Nicely — Telephone Interviewer

She enrolls participants and conducts their phone surveys. She enjoys hearing each participant's story and gathering important data for the study.