

# Fallopian Tube Lesions in Women at High Risk for Ovarian Cancer: A Multicenter Study

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## Abstract

The prognosis of women diagnosed with invasive high-grade serous ovarian carcinoma (HGSC) is poor. More information about serous tubal intraepithelial carcinoma (STIC) and serous tubal intraepithelial lesions (STIL), putative precursor lesions of HGSC, could inform prevention efforts. We conducted a multicenter study to identify risk/protective factors associated with STIC/STILs and characterize p53 signatures in the fallopian tube. The fallopian tubes and ovaries of 479 high-risk women  $\geq 30$  years of age who underwent bilateral risk-reducing salpingo-oophorectomy were reviewed for invasive cancer/STICs/STILs. Epidemiologic data was available for 400 of these women. In 105 women, extensive sampling of the tubes for STICs/STILs/p53 signatures were undertaken. Descriptive statistics were used to compare groups with and without lesions. The combined prevalence of unique tubal

lesions [invasive serous cancer ( $n = 6$ ) /STICs ( $n = 14$ ) /STILs ( $n = 5$ )] was 6.3% and this was split equally among *BRCA1* (3.0%) and *BRCA2* mutation carriers (3.3%). A diagnosis of invasive cancer was associated with older age but no risk/protective factor was significantly associated with STICs/STILs. Extensive sampling identified double the number of STICs/STILs (11.9%), many p53 signatures (27.0%), and multiple lesions in 50% of the cases. Women with p53 signatures in the fimbria were older than women with signatures in the remaining tube ( $P = 0.03$ ). STICs/STILs may not share the protective factors that are associated with HGSC. It is plausible that these factors are only associated with STICs that progress to HGSC. Having multiple lesions in the fimbria may be an important predictor of disease progression. *Cancer Prev Res*; 11(11); 697–706. ©2018 AACR.

## Background

In the early 2000s, closer examination of the fallopian tube in *BRCA1/2* mutation carriers undergoing risk reduction salpingo-oophorectomy (RRSO) informed our understanding of invasive serous carcinomas of the fallopian

tube and led to the classification of serous tubal intraepithelial carcinoma (STIC), a noninvasive lesion believed to be a precursor of high-grade serous carcinoma (HGSC; refs. 1, 2). The current theory is that the STIC cells detach from their residence at the fallopian tube surface and disseminate to the nearby ovaries and the peritoneal soft tissue, where they form masses. This theory explains why most HGSCs are not present at an early stage and the recent observation that women can develop peritoneal cancer post RRSO (3). Morphologically, STICs are characterized by a combination of nuclear enlargement, loss of polarity, increased nuclear atypia, aberrant p53 expression, and increased proliferative activity (4, 5). Serous tubal intraepithelial lesions (STIL) and p53 signatures have also been identified in the fallopian tube. STILs are lesions that just fall short of being classified as a STIC due to limited proliferation, whereas p53 signatures have aberrant p53 immunostaining in at least 12 consecutive secretory nuclei in normal-appearing nonproliferative tubal epithelium (6). The role, if any, of the p53 signatures in the carcinogenic process has not been elucidated.

Demonstrating that STICs are a precursor of HGSCs has been extremely challenging due to the infeasibility

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**Note:** Supplementary data for this article are available at Cancer Prevention Research Online (<http://cancerprevres.aacrjournals.org/>).

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**doi:** 10.1158/1940-6207.CAPR-18-0009

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Visvanathan et al.

of lesion biopsies and close monitoring of the tube. Compelling molecular evidence described by our research group and others, however, supports this notion (7–12). STICs have been identified in the fallopian tube of up to 59% of women with HGSC and in primary peritoneal serous carcinomas (13, 14). Etiologically important genes and proteins associated with HGSC such as *TP53* mutations and protein aberrant expression of p53, p21, cyclin E1, Rsf-1, laminin  $\gamma$ 1 protein, fatty acid synthase, stathmin1, and p16 have been identified in STICs (7–12). Molecular alterations reflective of DNA damage (expression of  $\gamma$ H2AX, a marker of double-stranded DNA breaks and pCHK2), oxidative damage (8-OHdG), and short telomere length have also been reported in both STICs and HGSC (8, 15, 16). By examining for predictors of STICs/STILs and invasive carcinoma in the fallopian tube, we believe we can improve the risk stratification and personalize preventive strategies in women at high-risk for ovarian cancer.

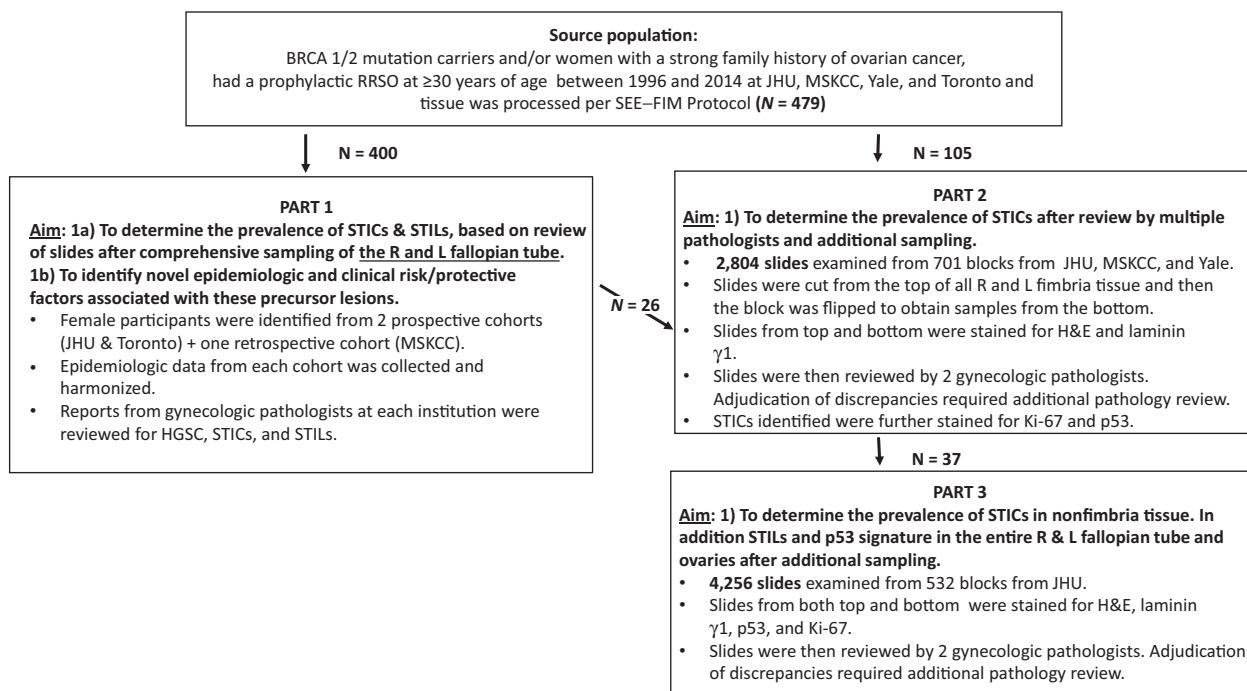
## Materials and Methods

### Study design

The source population for this study is cancer-free women who are at high risk of developing ovarian/fallopian tube cancer because of carriage of a *BRCA1/2* mutation or having at least 2 first- and/or second-degree relatives of the same lineage with ovarian cancer. They also had to have undergone a RRSO at  $\geq 30$  years of age in one of four academic centers: Johns Hopkins University (JHU;

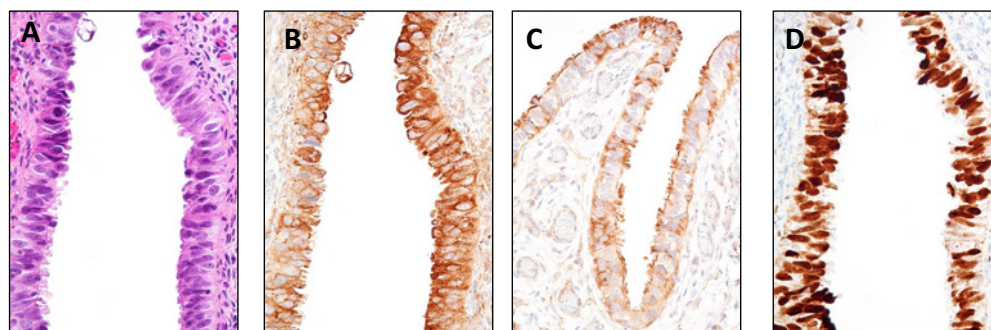
Baltimore, MD), University of Toronto (Toronto, Canada), Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC; New York, NY), or Yale Cancer Center (New Haven, CT). Furthermore, the fallopian tubes and ovaries had to be processed in their entirety using the SEE–FIM Protocol (17). Women with prior histories of cancer were excluded with the exception of nonmelanoma skin cancer or a diagnosis of breast cancer within the previous 10 years. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at JHU approved the study and each study site obtained local IRB approval.

The study was divided into three parts as outlined in Figure 1. All parts involve women from the same source population described above. In part 1, 400 cancer-free women were identified from two prospective epidemiologic cohorts at JHU (71 cases; ref. 18) and Toronto (195 cases) and a retrospective cohort at MSKCC (134 cases). Serial sections of each tissue block from both tubes were stained for hematoxylin and eosin (H&E), and p53  $\pm$  Ki-67 staining was done at their institution on suspicious lesions for confirmation. Slides were reviewed for occult invasive carcinomas and STICs by at least one gynecologic pathologist at each of the three sites and often by their tumor board. Yale was not included in this part of the study due to logistical issues regarding data linking. In part 2, 105 cancer-free women were identified from sequential cases undergoing RRSO at JHU (37 cases), MSKCC (33 cases), and Yale (35 cases) between June 1, 2011 and May 31, 2013. Cases from Toronto were not included because the institutional pathology review committee would not allow



**Figure 1.**

The consort diagram describing all three related parts of the study.



**Figure 2.**

Morphologic and immunostaining features of a representative STIC. **A**, H&E shows the atypical STIC cells. **B**, Laminin C1 staining exhibits an intense and diffuse immunoreactivity on the same STIC. **C**, Laminin C1 staining on the adjacent normal tubal epithelium. **D**, p53 staining shows a pattern compatible with a missense TP53 mutation.

flipping of the tissue blocks. A further restriction was added to maximize detection of STICs/STILs and p53 signatures. The tissue blocks of cases could not have previously been used for research. This meant that only 26 cases from part 1 were eligible for part 2. For every case, as shown in Supplementary Figure S1, the top and bottom of each fimbria block were sampled for STICs/STILs and p53 signatures. In part 3, all 37 cases from JHU were included and underwent extensive staining (top and bottom) of both tubes for STICs/STILs and p53 signatures.

The diagnosis of STIC and STIL was based on a previously validated algorithm (4, 5). Slides were initially stained for H&E and laminin  $\gamma$ 1 as shown in Figure 2, instead of H&E and p53, to detect STICs and STILs and then cases positive for laminin  $\gamma$ 1 and/or suspicious for a STIC/STIL on H&E were further stained for p53 and Ki-67. Laminin  $\gamma$ 1 encodes for *LAMC1* and has been shown in STICs to be positive when p53 is positive and in STICs that lacked p53 immunoreactivity due to frame shift, nonsense, or splicing junction mutations of *TP53*-null mutations (19). For p53 signatures, we applied the same criteria used in a prior study (5). Two gynecologic pathologists reviewed each case (R. Kurman, V. Parkash, I.-M. Shih, R. Soslow, and R. Vang) and were blinded to all clinical information. They were not given cases from their own institution. If the review was discordant, additional reviews were conducted by a third pathologist (R. Soslow) and if necessary, a fourth pathologist (R. Kurman) who were blinded to prior reviews and clinical information. Laminin  $\gamma$ 1 expression was scored as either positive or negative, p53 was scored as aberrant if diffuse expression (>75% of the cell) was present in at least 12 epithelial cells (with or without intervening ciliated cells) or there was complete absence of staining or nonabnormal pattern, and Ki-67 was categorized as <10% or  $\geq$ 10% staining. STICs are expected to be laminin  $\gamma$ 1 positive, p53 diffuse, or completely negative and Ki-67  $\geq$  10%. Quality controls were included in every batch.

### Tissue staining

IHC for parts 2 and 3 was performed at Johns Hopkins Immunopathology Laboratory to assess the expression levels of p53 (clone Bp53-11, catalog no. 760-2542; Ventana Medical Systems) and Ki-67 (clone 30-9, catalog no. 760-4286; Ventana Medical Systems) in formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue sections. All sections were immunostained automatically using either Ventana Benchmark Ultra or XT (Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.). Immunoreactivity was detected by iView (catalog no. 760-091, Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.). IHC to assess laminin  $\gamma$ 1 polyclonal antibody (catalog no. HPA001909, Sigma-Aldrich) was performed manually in the Shih laboratory according to manufacturer's instructions (diluted 1:400) and immunoreactivity was detected by the Dako Liquid DAB+ Substrate Chromogen System (catalog no. K3468, DAKO North America, Inc., Agilent Technologies).

### Epidemiologic data

A template and code book was developed on the basis of review of participant questionnaires from JHU and Toronto and provided to all sites. Deidentified data were then sent to JHU where it was reviewed and checked prior to harmonization to create uniform definition across sites. Variables with significant missing information were not included. Exposures examined included race, Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry, *BRCA1/2* status, family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer, parity, breast feeding and mean duration, oral contraceptive use and mean duration, hormone therapy use, tubal ligation, hysterectomy, endometriosis, mean age at menarche in years, personal history of breast cancer, fibroids, smoking, talcum powder, and body mass index (BMI). Germline *BRCA1/2* mutation status was confirmed from written reports and all surgical procedures were confirmed from pathology reports.

### Statistical analysis

The proportions and frequencies of the three lesions and p53 signatures were calculated overall, based on location

Visvanathan et al.

**Table 1.** Summary of lesions identified in the right and left fallopian tubes of 400 high-risk women

Lesion	STIC alone (n = 12)	STIC + Invasive carcinoma (n = 2)	Invasive carcinoma alone (n = 4)	STIL (n = 5)	No lesion (n = 377)	Total (n = 400)
Mean age at time of RRSO years, (SD)	50.9 (9.3)	60.4 (22.9)	55.5 (9.7)	48.1 (3.1)	48 (8.4)	48.3 (8.5)
Mean year of RRSO, (SD)	2004 (3.0)	2007 (4.9)	2004 (4.3)	2005 (2.4)	2007 (3.0)	2007 (3.0)
BRCA Status, n (%)						
<i>BRCA 1</i> Positive	7 (58.3)	1 (50.0)	1 (25.0)	2 (40.0)	177 (47.0)	188 (47.0)
<i>BRCA 2</i> Positive	5 (41.7)	1 (50.0)	3 (75.0)	3 (60.0)	166 (44.0)	178 (44.5)
<i>BRCA 1/2</i> Negative	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	19 (5.0)	19 (4.8)
<i>BRCA 1/2</i> status unknown	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	15 (4.0)	15 (3.7)
Site, n (%)						
JHU (2005–2014)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	71 (18.8)	71 (17.7)
MSKCC (2006–2011)	3 (25.0)	1 (50.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	130 (34.5)	134 (33.5)
Toronto (1996–2009)	9 (75.0)	1 (50.0)	4 (100.0)	5 (100)	176 (46.7)	195 (48.8)

Abbreviations: BRCA, breast cancer susceptibility gene; JHU, Johns Hopkins University; MSKCC, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; RRSO, risk reduction salpingo-oophorectomy; STIC, serous tubal intraepithelial carcinoma; STIL, serous tubal intraepithelial lesion.

(fimbria vs. nonfimbriated tube), *BRCA1/2* status, and age. Risk factor associations and their *P* values were calculated using descriptive statistics. The categories used were based on prior literature (20, 21) and distributions of exposure in women without lesions. Direct age-standardized estimates were calculated to compare characteristics of women with and without lesions (<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/donna-spiegelman/software/table1-for-windows>). A number of sensitivity analyses were undertaken with details provided in the results section. Percent agreement and Kappa were calculated for the final diagnosis reported by the first and second pathologist. All tests were considered statistically significant at  $P < 0.05$  and performed using STATA version 14.

## Results

Table 1 provides a summary of the tubal lesions identified in 400 high-risk women who underwent RRSO overall and by site. Of these women, 92% had an identified pathogenic mutation in *BRCA1/2*. The combined prevalence of invasive cancers/STICs/STILs was 6.3% (1.5% for invasive serous carcinomas, 3.5% for STICs, and 1.3% for STILs). The prevalence among *BRCA1* mutation carriers was 3% and among *BRCA2* mutation carriers was 3.3%. No invasive serous cancers, STICs, or STILs were identified in the 19 high-risk women who tested negative for a pathogenic mutation in *BRCA1/2*. There was a significant difference in the mean age across the sites ( $P = 0.02$ ). The mean age for women from JHU was 50 years (SD 8.8), MSKCC was 49 years (SD 9.2), and Toronto was 47 years (SD 7.7).

Table 2 compares selected age-standardized characteristics of women diagnosed with carcinoma (invasive cancer/STICs/STILs;  $N = 23$ ) to those without carcinoma ( $N = 377$ ). Additional characteristics are reported in Supplementary Table S2. Older age was the only significant predictor of having a carcinoma (51.9 years vs. 48.1 years;  $P = 0.036$ ), particularly among women with invasive carcinoma ( $P = 0.009$ ). Other risk/protective factors for HGSC including oral contraceptive (OC) use, parity, and history of hormone therapy were not found to be significantly different between women with and without

invasive carcinoma/STICs/STILs (20). On average, women with a carcinoma reported a lower mean duration of breast feeding (7.4 months) when compared with women with no lesion (14.5 months), but this difference was not statistically significant. These results did not change in sensitivity analyses limited to the two prospective studies (JHU and Toronto), *BRCA1/2* mutation carriers, excluding women with tubal ligation or excluding women with breast cancer within the last 10 years. Risk factors associated with other epithelial ovarian cancer subtypes were also not associated with a diagnosis of carcinoma compared with no lesion.

Table 3 provides individual-level data on the prevalence of the fallopian tube lesions and p53 signatures for 105 women extensively sampled in parts 2 and 3. In part 2, the mean number of fimbriae blocks were 1.7 for JHU, 2.3 for MSKCC, and 2.6 for Yale. A review by multiple pathologists increased the number of invasive cancers/STICs/STILs detected by 50%. Additional tissue sampling also more than doubled the number of lesions. In total, 10 carcinomas were detected in the tubes of 6 women. In only half of the cases were the STICs/STILs limited to the fimbria and in 50% of cases, multiple lesions were identified. In 2 of the 3 individuals where a STIC was identified in the top and bottom of the same tissue block, we stained and reviewed every 10th and 11th slide for H&E and laminin  $\gamma 1$  for 90% of the block to determine whether they were independent lesions. On the basis of our evaluation, the two STICs appear to be independent. Unlike STICs/STILs and invasive carcinomas, p53 signatures were identified across the entire tube in 10 women. Six p53 signatures were identified in the fimbria (with 5 of 6 in *BRCA1/2* mutation carriers), and 8 p53 signatures in the nonfimbriated tube.

Clinical characteristics of the 105 women are described in Supplementary Table S3. The mean age of women with p53 signatures in the fimbria was significantly older when compared with the women with signatures in the remainder of the tube (54 years vs. 45 years,  $P = 0.03$ ). Of note, invasive carcinoma/STICs/STILs were only detected in *BRCA1/2* mutation carriers, whereas p53 signatures were detected irrespective of mutation status. Figure 3 provides a summary of the prevalence of unique types of lesions per



**Table 2.** Characteristics of women with and without STICs and/or invasive carcinoma in the fallopian tubes (N = 400)

Characteristics	No STIC/STIL and/or invasive carcinoma (n = 377) n (%)	STIC/STIL and/or invasive carcinoma (n = 23) n (%)	P <sup>a</sup>
Mean age (SD) at RRSO, years	48.1 (8.4)	51.9 (9.7)	0.04
Race <sup>b</sup>			0.12
White	345 (91.5)	19 (83.3)	
Black	15 (4.0)	0 (0.0)	
Other	16 (4.2)	3 (12.5)	
Missing	1 (0.3)	1 (4.2)	
BRCA Status			0.62
BRCA 1/2 Positive	343 (91.0)	23 (100.0)	
VUS/Negative	19 (5.0)	0 (0.0)	
Missing	15 (4.0)	0 (0.0)	
Personal history of breast cancer			0.67
No	211 (56.1)	14 (62.5)	
Yes	166 (43.9)	9 (37.5)	
Family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer <sup>c</sup>			1.00
No	72 (19.0)	4 (16.7)	
Yes	302 (80.2)	19 (83.3)	
Missing	3 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	
Parity			1.00
Nulliparous	41 (10.8)	2 (8.3)	
Parous	334 (88.6)	21 (91.7)	
Missing	2 (0.5)	0 (0.0)	
Breast feeding <sup>d</sup>			1.00
No	34 (13.8)	2 (10.5)	
Yes	165 (66.8)	11 (57.9)	
Missing	48 (19.4)	6 (31.6)	
Mean duration of breastfeeding, months (SD) <sup>d</sup>	14.5 (13.2)	7.4 (6.02)	0.07
Oral contraceptive use			0.62
Never	82 (21.7)	4 (16.7)	
Ever	267 (70.9)	19 (83.3)	
Missing	28 (7.4)	0 (0.0)	
Mean duration of oral contraceptive use months (SD)	9.6 (6.7)	8.5 (2.4)	0.58
Hormone therapy use			1.00
Never	295 (78.3)	17 (75.0)	
Ever	51 (13.5)	3 (12.5)	
Missing	31 (8.2)	3 (12.5)	
Tubal ligation			0.55
Never	313 (83.1)	18 (79.2)	
Ever	54 (14.3)	4 (16.7)	
Missing	10 (2.6)	1 (4.2)	
Hysterectomy <sup>e</sup>			0.38
Never	350 (92.9)	22 (95.8)	
Ever	24 (6.3)	0 (0.0)	
Missing	3 (0.8)	1 (4.2)	
Endometriosis			0.33
Never	338 (89.7)	18 (79.2)	
Ever	19 (5.0)	3 (12.5)	
Missing	20 (5.3)	2 (8.3)	

NOTE: All values were age standardized.

Abbreviations: BRCA, breast cancer susceptibility gene; RRSO, Risk reducing salpingo oophorectomy; STIC, serous tubal intraepithelial carcinoma; STIL, serous tubal intraepithelial lesion; VUS, variants of uncertain significance.

<sup>a</sup>Fisher exact was used for groups with < 10 in one category.<sup>b</sup>Other includes Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and those who are multiracial.<sup>c</sup>Those who reported a first- and/or second-degree family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer.<sup>d</sup>Breast feeding limited to parous women at JHU and Toronto.<sup>e</sup>Collected on closest date prior to RRSO.

individual for each part of the study. The combined prevalence of invasive cancer/STICs/STILs for parts 1 and 2 was 6.3% and 11.9%, respectively, after extensive sampling and

review by multiple pathologists and 27% for unique p53 signatures from part 2.

The percent agreement for the diagnosis of STIC versus non-STIC by the two initial pathologists was 99.3% and the  $\kappa = 0.61$  based on laminin  $\gamma 1$  expression and H&E. The percent agreement for the diagnosis of p53 signature based on H&E, laminin  $\gamma 1$ , p53, and Ki-67 was 96.9% and the  $\kappa = 0.19$ . Every case of p53 signature required at least a third pathology review and sometimes a fourth to reach consensus.

## Discussion

To our knowledge, this is the first multicenter study to extensively examine for risk and/or protective factors associated with STICs/STILs in women at high-risk for ovarian cancer. This is also the first study to conduct sampling of both ends of tumor blocks across the entire tube and have all slides reviewed by multiple pathologists to further characterize the prevalence and location of STICs/STILs and p53 signatures. Comprehensive sampling and screening of the fallopian tube in 400 RRSO cases based on H&E and p53 expression identified invasive serous cancers/STICs/STILs in 6.3% of cases. Older age was associated with having a carcinoma. No other risk/protective factors were significantly associated with invasive carcinoma/STICs/STILs. The observation that mean breast feeding was on average 7 months lower in cases with a carcinoma than no lesion deserves further exploration. There has been only one single institution study that has examined for risk factors associated with STICs (22). Vicus and colleagues observed in 173 BRCA1/2 mutation carriers that older age, tubal ligation, and a BMI > 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup> were positively associated with STICs and that there was an inverse relationship with increased duration of oral contraceptive use. Some of these women are part of our study. In BRCA1/2 mutation carriers, breast feeding and duration of oral contraceptive use were associated with between 25% and 40% reduction in ovarian cancer incidence. It is plausible that the association between breast feeding, oral contraceptives, and STICs/STILs is not as strong (21) or that known risk/protective factors (21) are associated with progression of STICs to HGSC and not the incidence of STICs. Another possibility is that the development of STICs are related to random mutations occurring by chance that target cancer drivers, including TP53 (23).

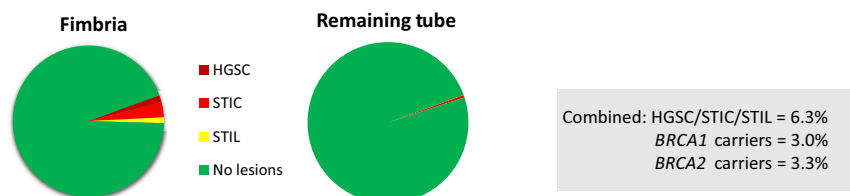
Additional sampling of the fallopian tube generated some interesting findings. It doubled the detection of STICs/STILs and p53 signatures. The observation that STICs/STILs occur at equal prevalence in the nonfimbriated part of the tube raises the question of whether all STICs have the same propensity to translocate to the ovary or peritoneum. Similarly, the observation of multiple STICs in 50% of the cases could be indicative of greater risk for STIC migration to occur to the ovary or peritoneum and therefore, the development of HGSC when compared with

**Table 3.** Description of lesions and p53 signatures in the fallopian tube after additional sampling (N = 105)

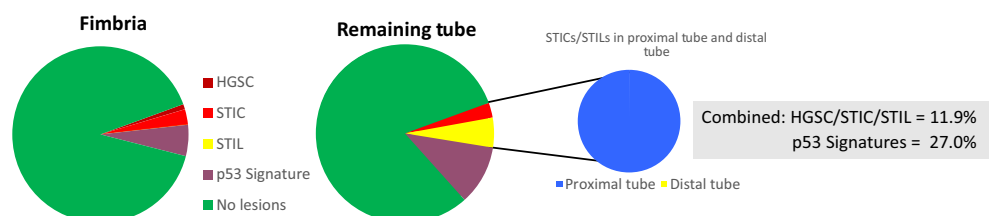
Case ID	Lesion	Year of RRSO	Age	BRCA status	Site	Position	Location	Laminin $\gamma 1$	p53	Ki-67	Fimbria blocks no.	Tube blocks no.	Pathology report	Second reviewer agreement
<b>STICs in the right and left fimbria</b>														
1	STIC	2011	76	BRCA2	MSKCC	Top	Right fimbria	Positive	Diffuse staining	<10%	2	0	STIC; p53 diffuse	Yes
	STIC & Cancer					Bottom	Right fimbria	Positive	Diffuse staining	<10%			& Ki-67 >10%	
2	STIC	2011	49	BRCA1	MSKCC	Top	Right fimbria	Positive	Absence/nonabnormal	$\geq 10\%$	2	0	No lesion	No
3	STIC	2011	44	BRCA1	YALE	Top	Right fimbria	Positive	Diffuse staining	$\geq 10\%$	2	0	STIC; p53 diffuse	No
	STIC					Bottom	Right fimbria	Positive	Diffuse staining	$>10\%$			& Ki-67 <10%	
<b>STICs in the nonfimbrial sections of the right and left tube and p53 signatures/STILs in the right and left tube</b>														
1	STIC	2012	47	BRCA2	JHU	Top	Left distal	Positive	Diffuse	<10%	1	7	No lesion	No
	STIC + p53 signature					Bottom	Left distal	Positive	Diffuse	<10%				
	p53 signature					Top	Right proximal	Negative	Diffuse	<10%				
	p53 signature					Top	Right proximal	Negative	Diffuse	<10%				
2	STIL	2010	50	BRCA2	JHU	Bottom	Left distal	Negative	Diffuse	<10%	2	4	No lesion	No
	p53 signature					Bottom	Left fimbria	Negative	Diffuse	<10%				
	STIL	2011	57	BRCA2	JHU	Bottom	Left distal	Positive	Diffuse	<10%	2	4	No lesion	No
	p53 signature					Bottom	Right fimbria	Negative	Diffuse	<10%				
4	p53 signature	2012	47	Negative	JHU	Top	Right proximal	Negative	Diffuse	<10%	0	6	No lesion	No
	p53 signature					Bottom	Left proximal	Negative	Diffuse	<10%				
5	p53 signature	2012	49	BRCA1	JHU	Top	Right fimbria	Negative	Diffuse	<10%	2	4	No lesion	No
	p53 signature					Bottom	Right distal	Negative	Diffuse	<10%				
6	p53 signature	2012	40	BRCA2	JHU	Bottom	Right distal	Negative	Diffuse	<10%	2	8	No lesion	No
7	p53 signature	2012	59	BRCA1	JHU	Bottom	Right fimbria	Negative	Diffuse	<10%	2	2	No lesion	No
8	p53 signature	2013	43	BRCA1	JHU	Bottom	Left proximal	Negative	Diffuse	<10%	1	6	No lesion	No
9	p53 signature	2010	41	BRCA2	JHU	Top	Right fimbria	Negative	Diffuse	<10%	2	6	No lesion	No
10	p53 signature	2010	68	Negative	JHU	Top	Left fimbria	Negative	Diffuse	<10%	6	3	No lesion	No

Abbreviations: BRCA, breast cancer susceptibility gene; JHU, Johns Hopkins University; MSKCC, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; RRSO, risk reduction salpingo-oophorectomy; STIC, serous tubal intraepithelial carcinoma; STIL, serous tubal intraepithelial lesion.

- Comprehensive review of H&E slides from top of tissue block by a single pathologist (part 1)



- Review of H&E/Laminin/p53/Ki67–stained slides from top and bottom of all tissue blocks by multiple pathologists (part 2 & 3)



\*Lesions of the same type in the same individual were counted only once starting with the fimbria. Table 2 and 3 provide further details of the individual lesions.

**Figure 3.**

Detection of fallopian tube lesions. A summary of the type of and frequency of unique lesions detected in the fallopian tubes after comprehensive sampling and additional sampling and pathology review.

a woman with a single lesion. The role of p53 signatures in the development of HGSC is less clear. P53 signatures occurred at a greater prevalence than STICs (27% vs. 11.9%) with only 40% occurring in the fimbria. Furthermore, signatures in the fimbria compared with the remaining tube were more prevalent among older age women suggesting that all p53 signatures may not necessarily lead to HGSC. The increase in the number of detected lesions and p53 signatures after review by multiple pathologists and the low agreement across pathologists particularly for p53 signatures suggests that further work is needed for the development of standard reproducible criteria. It is likely that the imbalance caused by few positive lesions and significant discordance between pathologists is only part of the explanation for the low agreement (24).

Our prevalence of STICs/STILs based on comprehensive processing was 4.8%, which is within the range of 2.0% to 6.2% reported by the few studies of more than 200 high-risk women (3, 25–27). Shaw and colleagues' is the only study to report on STICs/STILs and p53 signatures in 176 high-risk women and the tissue processing was similar to what we did for the initial 400 cases. The prevalence of STICs/STILs was much higher than in our study at 10% whereas the prevalence of p53 signatures was lower at 11% (28). Our estimates of invasive cancer were 1.5%. This estimate is lower than the GOG-0199, a screening study that reported a prevalence of 3.4% after review of 966 RRSO cases but similar to three large ( $N > 200$ ) observational studies that reported a prevalence ranging between 0.9% and 2.0% (25–27, 29). None of the studies did more extensive sampling. The few pilot studies that have examined the impact of deeper sectioning of tissue

blocks on the detection of STICs/STILs from the fimbria in cases with cancer (13, 30, 31) have shown an increase in detection of tubal lesions. None of them have performed extensive sectioning across the entire tube in cancer-free individuals.

Strengths of this study include the multicenter design, standardized tissue processing across sites, review of slides with and without lesions by multiple gynecologic pathologists, and the ability to link pathology tissue to detailed epidemiologic data. In this study, we had adequate power to detect moderate to large differences in exposures between women with and without a lesion. The widespread implementation of standard pathologic criteria across hospitals in conjunction with the prospective collection of epidemiologic data may help elucidate novel risk/protective factors associated with fallopian tube lesions and better understand their natural history.

#### Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

R. Soslow has received speakers bureau honoraria from Ebix/Oakstone. No potential conflicts of interest were disclosed by the other authors.

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## Acknowledgments

The authors thank Sophia HL George, Ramlogan Sowamber, and Noor Salman for the retrieval and processing of Toronto Cases (University Health Network, Toronto, Canada); and staff and parti-

cipants of the BOSS cohort at Johns Hopkins. This work was supported by DOD Ovarian Consortium W81XWH-11-2-0230; Breast Cancer Research Foundation (to K. Visvanathan); Richard W. TeLinde Research Fund (to I.-M. Shih); NCI P30CA06973 (to R. Soslow); and NCI P30 CA008748 (to K. Visvanathan, I.-M. Shih, R. Kurman, and T.-L. Wang).

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Received January 8, 2018; revised May 15, 2018; accepted September 4, 2018; published first September 19, 2018.

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# Cancer Prevention Research

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*Cancer Prev Res* 2018;11:697-706. Published OnlineFirst September 19, 2018.

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