April Is Cancer Control Month

What Is Cancer Control Month?
Cancer control month highlights advances in fighting cancer. This includes prevention, early detection, and treatment of cancer. One way to control cancer is to find cancer cells and get rid of them. Cancer screenings can help find cancer early. The earlier the cancer is found, the better the prognosis. The American Cancer Society’s recommendations for cancer screening can be found on the next page.

What are the Key Statistics about Cancer?
- After heart disease, cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States.
- About 1.9 million new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed in 2021.
- Over a lifetime, about 1 in 3 people in the United States will develop cancer.
- Cancer rates and deaths have been on the decline since the early 1990’s.
- The World Cancer Research Fund estimates that at least 18% of all cancers in the US are related to being overweight or obesity, physical inactivity, excess alcohol consumption and/or poor nutrition.
Who’s at Risk?
While everyone is at risk for cancer, some people are at greater risk than others. Age is the greatest risk factor for cancer, since nearly 80% of cancers are detected at age 55 and older. Also, people who use tobacco, drink heavily, are physically inactive, eat a poor diet, are regularly exposed to carcinogens (cancer causing agents) in their occupation, or have prolonged and unprotected exposure to sunlight are all at increased risk for certain cancers.

Everyone should follow cancer prevention and screening guidelines. Those at highest risk for specific cancers should pay close attention to symptoms and screening recommendations and should seek prompt medical attention if they occur. The latest screening guidelines recommended by the American Cancer Society can be found at: https://www.cancer.org/healthy/find-cancer-early/cancer-screening-guidelines/american-cancer-society-guidelines-for-the-early-detection-of-cancer.html

Can Cancer Be Found Early or Controlled?
Scientific or medical discoveries have a major impact on controlling cancer. Some examples of controlling cancer are:

Genetic Testing
Researchers have found changes (mutations) in genes may cause cancer. Some genetic changes may increase a person’s chance of getting cancer. People who are concerned about cancer in their family should talk to their doctor. The doctor may send them to a cancer genetics specialist. People with a strong family history of cancer may be recommended to have a blood test. These tests may show if they have inherited any of these genetic changes. Genetic counseling helps people decide if testing is right for them as well as understand and deal with the results.

Gene Therapy
Genes are genetic material that control the development of one or more traits and is the basic unit by which genetic information is passed from parent to offspring. Cells normally have genes that help prevent cancer from developing. Gene therapy is a medicine that introduces genetic material into a person’s DNA to replace faulty or missing genetic material. It may be possible to treat cancer by placing a healthy gene into the cancer cells.

Vaccines
Vaccines help the immune system to prevent or fight disease. Cancer vaccines can stop or prevent certain cancers.

Chemopreventive Agents
Chemopreventive agents are given to prevent cancer. They can act alone or with other medicines to reduce the risk of certain cancers.

Early Detection
New and more accurate cancer screening methods allow earlier detection of some precancerous lesions and early-stage cancers. This helps physicians treat people before the disease progresses.

Lifestyle Changes
New findings about lifestyle changes, especially concerning diet, nutrition, and physical activity, may prevent some cancers.
Chemotherapy
Clinical trials are in progress to test new chemotherapy drugs or combinations. Other studies are testing new ways to combine proven drugs to make them even more effective. These medicines can help control, cure, or prevent the return of cancer once it has developed.

Immunotherapy
New treatments have been developed that work with the immune system. This type of treatment can help fight or control cancer. You may also hear this referred to as biological therapy, biotherapy, or biological response modifier (BRM) therapy.

Antiangiogenesis Agents
Tumors cannot grow without a blood supply. Antiangiogenesis therapy is the use of drugs or other substances to stop cancerous tumors from developing new blood vessels.

Cancer Prevention Trials at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey
If you would like further information about clinical trials for preventing cancer, please call Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey at 732-235-8675. For additional information about nationwide cancer prevention trials, you can call the National Cancer Institute at 1-800-4 CANCER or visit their Web site at www.cancer.gov.
Where Can I Find Further Information?

Resource and Learning Center
732-235-9639 www.cinj.org/rlc
Provides reliable, relevant and current information about all aspects of cancer.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
http://www.ahrq.gov/patients-consumers/index.html

The American Cancer Society
1-800-ACS-2345
www.cancer.org

American Institute for Cancer Research
1-800-843-8114
www.aicr.org

MedlinePlus
www.medlineplus.gov

National Cancer Institute
1-800-4-CANCER
www.cancer.gov

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
800-232-4636
http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/index.htm

National Institute of Health
301-496-4000
www.nih.gov

NJ Cancer Education and Early Detection Prevention and Health Promotion (NJCEED)
(609) 292-8540
www.nj.gov/health/ces/public/resources/njceed.shtml

RLC website QR code. Scan with smartphone or device.

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