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**Reply: The fimbria/ovarian surface junction**

Sir,

A body of data has accumulated in recent years that indicates that high-grade serous carcinomas have multiple origins, and this concept is still evolving. A broader consideration of these origins may require assessment of whether ovarian surface epithelium (OSE) and fimbrial epithelium (FE) are interconvertible. If they are, it may not be practical to distinguish between them. They may be defined primarily by location and distinctions may be quite labile and environment specific. The Letter by Dietl et al. comments on our observations (Wright et al., 2011a) that FE may replace OSE after removal of the surface epithelium by epitheliectomy (OSEX), and we would like to add observations from a companion manuscript (Wright et al., 2011b) that may be complementary to FE transfer to the ovary: OSE cells may be displaced by ovulation and transferred to the fimbria.

Critical experiments are needed to determine whether, and to what extent, the transfer of cells from each population occurs, and how important the ovarian compartment is to the transformation of FE/OSE. Transfer of FE to the ovarian environment may enhance risk by subjecting these cells to ovulatory damage and/or incorporating them into inclusion cysts. Alternatively, transfer of OSE cells to the fimbria may promote tumorigenesis by releasing displaced cells from unidentified ovarian cues that account for the relatively low levels of proliferation and enhanced DNA repair seen in OSE versus FE. Yet a third possibility is that the primate OSE does not undergo cyclic proliferative repair after ovulation, but instead is naturally replaced by migrating FE. Resolving each of these possibilities will have clinical significance in determining whether salpinectomy or OSEX alone, or in combination, will protect against high-grade serous carcinomas without sacrificing ovarian function and fertility.

**References**


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**The effect of needle diameter on duration of oocyte collection procedure**

Sir,

I read the article by Wikland et al. (2011) with great interest. I am intrigued with the authors’ finding of similar collection times with the new reduced diameter needle. Poiseuille’s law states that at a constant driving pressure the flow rate of liquid through a capillary tube is directly proportional to the fourth power of the radius of the tube and inversely proportional to the length and viscosity of the tube (Steiner, 2011). Accordingly, I would expect the collection time to be different between two needles with inner diameters differing by 40%.

**References**


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**Reply: The effect of needle diameter on duration of oocyte collection procedure**

Sir,

We thank Dr Steiner for his interest in our study (Wikland et al., 2011) and the comment. The question about collection time with reference to Poiseuille’s law is relevant. According to this law one would expect a longer collection time for the thinner needle.