EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF GYNAECOLOGICAL ONCOLOGY (ISSN 0392-2936) publishes original peer reviewed works in the fields of female genital cancers and related subjects and also proceedings of gynecologic oncology society meetings all over the world. The Journal is covered by CURRENT CONTENTS, SCISEARCH, RESEARCH ALERT, INDEX MEDICUS, MEDLINE, EMBASE/Excerpta Medica, CURRENT ADVANCES IN CANCER RESEARCH, BIOSIS.
The twenty-fifth birthday of our Journal
A. Onnis - Montréal, Canada
The foundation and the life of the Journal (the second in this field all over the world) is remembered with pride.

Skin flaps for the Gynaecologist
H.H. Allen - London, Canada
Skin flaps are becoming more frequently indicated in gynecologic surgical practice, especially in oncologic surgery. It is imperative that the gynecologic surgeon of today be well informed in the many physiologic processes of wound healing, also those factors that delay and those that promote wound healing. Knowledge of the detailed anatomy of the abdomen, pelvis, vulva, peritoneum and ano-rectal area is essential.

Evaluation of DNA methylation in the human genome: Why examine it and what method to use
J.P. Geisler, K.J. Manahan, H.E. Geisler - Iowa and Indiana, USA
DNA methylation may cause absence of gene expression. Multiple methods exist for studying this epigenetic cause of gene dysfunction. These methods are discussed.

Differential expression of CD40 and CD95 in ovarian carcinoma
G. Ciaravino, M. Bhat, C.A. Manbeian, N.N.H. Teng - Stanford, CA (USA)
Expression and function of two proteins associated with signaling pathways that control cell death are evaluated in ovarian carcinoma.

Effect of cis-diammine dichloroplatinum on vascular endothelial growth factor expression in uterine cervical carcinoma
Y. Miyahara, S. Yoshida, S. Motoyama, Y. Hamana, T. Maruo - Kobe, Japan
Our findings indicate that CDDP-induced increases in VEGF production by cervical carcinoma cells may stimulate angiogenesis in tumor lesions.

Treatment policy of neuroendocrine small cell cancer of the cervix
X.-B. Trinh, J.J. Bogers, E.A. Van Marck, W.A.A. Tjalma - Edegem, Belgium
A case of an IB1 neuroendocrine small cell cancer of the cervix which was successfully treated with a multimodal approach is discussed.

Changes in vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) after chemoendocrine therapy in breast cancer
N. Fersis, B. Smyczek-Gargya, S. Armeau, E. Gagulic, L. Pantic, K. Relakis, M. Friedrich, D. Wallwiener - Tübingen and Lübeck, Germany
Only high concentrations of chemotherapeutic drugs lead to suppression of VEGF and angiopoietin-1 gene expression.

Use of the nested reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction for the detection of human papillomavirus 16 E6 transcriptional activity in cervical cancer: A technical perspective
M. Moodley, J. Moodley, C.S. Herrington, S. Sewart, R. Chetty - Durban, South Africa
Nested RT-PCR is superior to conventional RT-PCR to evaluate HPV-related cervical carcinogenesis.

Quantitative study on the correlation between p53 gene mutation and its expression in endometrial carcinoma cell lines
Y. Kamata, J. Watanabe, H. Hata, M. Hamano, H. Kuramoto - Tokyo, Japan
The amount of p53 protein was investigated by immunocytochemistry and immunoblotting, and compared with p53 gene mutation in endometrial carcinoma cell lines.
Is direct large loop electric excision for the transformation zone reasonable in the investigation of high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions in cervical smears?  
K.Y. Ng, C.K. Chang, J. Chen, P.H. Wang, S.W. Teng - Taipei, Taiwan
Applying direct large loop electric excision to the transformation zone (LLETZ) for the management of cervical high grade intraepithelial lesions might be a reasonable choice because it has good diagnostic accuracy with minimal morbidity and an acceptable low over-treatment rate.

Taxanes in the first-line chemotherapy of metastatic breast cancer: Review  
M. Friedrich, D. Diesing, C. Villena-Heinsen, R. Felberbaum, H.C. Kolberg, K. Diedrich - Baden and Lübeck, Germany
Taxanes belong to the most effective agents in the treatment of advanced and non-hormone responsive breast cancer. Thus, the combination of anthracyclines (adriamycin, doxorubicin) and taxanes (docetaxel, paclitaxel) is a promising tool in the treatment of metastatic breast cancer.

Neuroectodermal immunophenotype in uterine malignant mullerian tumors (MMT): Comparative immunohistochemical analysis with embryonal uterine development  
A. Karseladze, A. Perevoshchikov, S. Navarro, A. Llombart-Bosch - Moscow, Russia and Valencia, Spain
Both components of uterine MMT display coexpression of different types of antigens including those of neural differentiation. This phenomenon is a recapitulation of the immunophenotype of the embryonal uterus.

The relationship between expression of p53/bcl-2 and clinicopathological criteria in endometrioid adenocarcinomas of the endometrium  
I. Sari, A. Gocmen, M. Bitiren, E.A. Cakmak - Gaziantep, Turkey
A decrease in bcl-2 reactivity and an increase in p53 positive staining was observed as the histological differentiation worsened.

Early stage cervical cancer with negative pelvic lymph nodes: Pattern of failure and complication following radical hysterectomy and adjuvant radiotherapy  
S.W. Chen, J.A. Liang, S.N. Yang, F.J. Lin - Taichung, Taiwan
For patients with lymph node negative cervical cancer following radical hysterectomy, adjuvant lower pelvic radiation appears to be effective for pelvic control. It is also imperative to intensify the strategies of adjuvant therapy for some subgroups of patients.

What is the number of lymph nodes required for an “adequate” pelvic lymphadenectomy?  
H.W. Nijman, M. Khalifa, A. Covens - Groningen, The Netherlands
The minimum number of pelvic lymph nodes (PLN) identified at a PLND to be defined as adequate is five or six lymph nodes.

Protocol combining GnRH agonists and GnRH antagonists for rapid suppression and prevention of gonadal damage during cytotoxic therapy  
T. Mardesic, M. Snajderova, L. Sramkova, P. Keslova, P. Sedlacek, J. Stary - Prague, Czech Republic
The combination of GnRH-agonist and GnRH-antagonist enables a quick and cost-effective suppression of the pituitary-gonadal axis to be achieved.

Attitudes toward preventive oophorectomy among BRCA1 mutation carriers in Poland  
In this study the acceptance of a prophylactic oophorectomy among Polish BRCA1 mutation carriers was evaluated.

The incidence of female genital tumors in the province of Sassari in the period 1992-2000  
A. Cossu, M. Budroni, G. Capobianco, D. Pirino, G. Palmieri, S. Dessole, F. Tanda, R. Cesaraccio, P.L. Cherchi - Sassari, Italy
The incidence of female genital tumors in the province of Sassari in the period 1992-2000 is reported.

Clinical features of familial ovarian cancer lacking mutations in BRCA1 or BRCA2  
In this study clinical and pathologic features of ovarian cancers were identified in patients with a strong familial history of breast or ovarian cancer but no mutation in the BRCA1/2 was detected.

The expression of epithelial specific antigen in cervical intraepithelial neoplasia and adenocarcinoma  
S. Markaki, D. Lazaris, I. Papasiropou, V. Paulou - Athens, Greece
Forty cases of glandular lesions of the cervix were studied immunohistochemically in order to examine the localization of epithelial specific antigen (ESA) and to prove that ESA is a useful marker regarding the diagnosis of glandular intraepithelial neoplasia.
Preoperative brachytherapy in endometrial cancer - proposal of a new clinical protocol
J. Sobotkowski, M. Grzelak, A. Pietraszek, M. Wieczorek - Lodz, POLAND
Preoperative brachytherapy in endometrial cancer is described and diagnosis and treatment proposals are shown. Usage of this method may avoid teleradiotherapy in some patients, is safe in experienced hands but needs further investigation and discussion.

SIADH associated with ovarian immature teratoma: a case report
C.M. Lam, V. Shun-yin Yu - Hong Kong, SAR (CHINA)
A case of confirmed SIADH, associated with ovarian immature teratoma, which subsided after the curative surgery is reported.

Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the uterine corpus metastatic to brain and lung: Case report and review of the literature
Y. Erhan, Y. Dikimen, M.S. Yucebilgin, O. Zekioglu, L. Mgoyi, M.C. Terek - Izmir, TURKEY
A patient with large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the uterine corpus metastatic to the brain and lung is reported.

Mucinous tumors of the appendix presenting as primary tumors of the ovary. Report of two cases
A. Liapis, E. Michailidis, P. Bakas, A. Kondi-Pafiti, G. Creatasas - Athens, GREECE
Two cases of mucinous tumors of the appendix presenting as primary tumors of the ovary are presented.

Ovarian Sertoli-Leydig cell tumor with coexisting vaginal angiomyxoma: Case report and review of the literature
P. Tampakoudis, M. Zafrakas, E. Kostopoulou, K. Dragoumis, T. Tsalikis, J. Bontis - Thessaloniki, GREECE
A rare case of an ovarian Sertoli-Leydig cell tumor with a coexisting vaginal angiomyxoma is presented.

Diffuse malignant epithelial peritoneal mesothelioma in pregnancy. A case report and literature review
T. Pekin, E. Cosaır, N. Dedeoglu, F. Çakalagaoğlu, H. Gökaslan, Z. Kavak - Istanbul, TURKEY
Mesothelioma in pregnancy is a rare peritoneal malignancy and is regarded as a universally fatal cancer with few treatment options.

Phyllodes tumor of the breast: case series of 40 patients
E. Eroglu, C. Irkkan, F. Eroglu - Isparta, TURKEY
Cystosarcoma phyllodes is a rare, uncommon fibroepithelial tumor of the breast. The clinical situation in relation to the histopathologic findings is analyzed. Forty types of surgery, recurrences, histopathologic diagnoses and follow-up of patients were studied retrospectively.

Acute myeloblastic leukemia in pregnancy: a case report and review of the literature
M.S. Yucebilgin, S. Cagirgan, A. Donmez, E. Ozkinay, F. Akercan, L. Mgoyi, F. Vural - Izmir, TURKEY
A case of acute myelocytic leukemia diagnosed during the third trimester and treated with chemotherapeutic agents before delivery is reported.