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TESTICULAR CANCER: KNOW THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS*Northwest Cancer Specialists Promotes Testicular Cancer Awareness Month*

PORTLAND, Ore., April 7, 2011 – In the United States approximately 8,480 men are diagnosed with testicular cancer each year. It is the most common form of cancer in men between the ages of 15 and 35. The good news, however, is that testicular cancer is also one of the most curable types of cancer.

The American Cancer Society recommends all men have a testicular exam as part of general physical examination and routine cancer-related check-up. A testicular examination can detect the causes of pain, inflammation, swelling, congenital abnormalities such as an absent or undescended testicle, and lumps or masses that may indicate testicular cancer.

While routine testicular exams are important, most testicular cancer is detected by men themselves, either unintentionally or by self-examination. While no studies have been done to determine the effectiveness of testicular self-examination, it is important for all men to be aware of the signs and symptoms of the disease and consult with their healthcare provider if they notice any change in their testicles. Possible signs and symptoms of testicular cancer include:

- a painless lump or swelling in a testicle
- pain or discomfort in a testicle or in the scrotum
- any enlargement of a testicle or change in the way it feels
- a feeling of heaviness in the scrotum
- a dull ache in the lower abdomen, back, or groin
- a sudden collection of fluid in the scrotum

Northwest Cancer Specialists plays a major role in helping men in the Portland – Vancouver communities and their families win the battle against testicular cancer by providing easy access to a full range of advanced cancer care services in a setting that allows patients to remain close to their homes and their support networks of family and friends. As a result, patients access the best possible treatment with the least amount of disruption to their daily lives.

About Northwest Cancer Specialists

Northwest Cancer Specialists is a regional oncology and hematology practice with a dedicated team of over 40 medical oncologists, hematologists, gynecologic oncologists and radiation oncologists seeing patients at seven locations in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area. For more information, please visit, www.nwcancer.com.

As a member of the US Oncology network, Northwest Cancer Specialists participates in one of the nation's largest cancer treatment and research organizations. This membership enables us to bring the latest advances in therapies, clinical research and technology to patients in our community. It also allows us to lead and participate in a national effort with nearly 1,200 oncology colleagues to share and create best-in-class clinical and operational processes that help improve the quality, safety and cost effectiveness of cancer care delivered to patients throughout the U.S.

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www.nwcancer.com