



OVARIAN CANCER

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



OVARIAN CANCER: THE FACTS

- Eleventh most common cancer in women.
- Deadliest of all gynecologic cancers and the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths among American women.
- Almost 22,000 American women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2014.
- Over 14,400 women will die from ovarian cancer in the United States each year.
- 1 in 75 women will develop ovarian cancer in her lifetime

Source: Statistical information from the American Cancer Society: Cancer Facts and Figures 2012



EARLY DETECTION IS CRITICAL.... ...BUT DIFFICULT

- 90% of women DO report symptoms, even at early stages
- When ovarian cancer is detected before it has spread beyond the ovaries, 9 out of 10 women will survive for more than five years.
- Only 15% of cases in the US are diagnosed early

Symptoms:

- Bloating
- Urinary frequency or urgency
- Pelvic or abdominal pain
- Difficulty eating or feeling full quickly



RISK FACTORS Increases Risk

- Family/personal history of certain cancers:
breast, ovarian, uterine, colon cancers
- Genetic mutation (i.e. BRCA1/BRCA2 mutation, lynch syndrome)
- Hormone replacement
- More menstrual cycles
- Increased age
- Obesity





RISK FACTORS Decreases Risk

- Removal of ovaries/fallopian tubes
- Childbearing
- Breastfeeding
- Oral contraceptive use
- Tubal ligation/salpingectomy



A Pap smear does not
screen for ovarian cancer.





WHEN TO TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR

Talk to your doctor when the symptoms:

- Occur frequently, approximately 12 times in a month
- Are persistent over the course of 2 or more weeks
- Are unusual for you and are unexplained by other causes



IF OVARIAN CANCER IS SUSPECTED

The following should be performed:

- Pelvic and rectal examination
- Transvaginal or pelvic ultrasound
- CA-125 blood test if an irregularity is found on the above exams or if the patient is symptomatic
- Always see a gynecologic oncologist - Studies have shown that women diagnosed with ovarian cancer generally have a better likelihood of prolonged survival if treated by a gynecologic oncologist



TESTING FOR OVARIAN CANCER

Ultrasound
 CT Scan
 MRI
 PET Scan
 Blood Test

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AGE AT DIAGNOSIS

Under age 20 years	0.7%
Between 20 and 34 years	2.1%
Between 35 and 44 years	4%
Between 45 and 54	10%
Between 55 and 64	16.4%
Between 65 and 74 years	23.9%
Between 75 and 84 years	28.4%
85+ years	14.5%

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