

# About Ovarian Cancer

Estimated new cases and deaths from ovary cancer in the United States in 2017

New cases: 22,440

Deaths: 14,080

Ovarian cancer represents 2.3% of all cancer deaths in the U.S.

## Risk Factors

- *Family history:* Women who have a mother, daughter or sister with ovarian cancer have an increased risk of the disease.
- *Personal history of cancer:* Woman who have had cancer of the breast, uterus, colon or rectum have a greater chance of ovarian cancer.
- *Age over 55:* Most woman woman are over the age of 55 when diagnosed with ovarian cancer..
- *Never pregnant:* Older woman who have never been pregnant have an increased risk of ovarian cancer.
- *Menopausal hormone therapy:* Some studies have suggested that women who take estrogen by itself (estrogen without progesterone) for 10 or more years may have an increased risk of ovarian cancer.

## Symptoms

- Pressure or pain in the abdomen or pelvis
- Vaginal bleeding that is heavy or irregular, especially after menopause.
- Vaginal discharge that is clear, white, or colored with blood.
- A lump in the pelvic area.
- Nausea, indigestion, gas, constipation or diarrhea.

## Treatment Methods

Your doctor can describe your treatment choices and the expected results. Most women have surgery and chemotherapy.

- *Hysterectomy:* Surgery to remove the uterus and, sometimes, the cervix.
- *Radiation therapy* is a cancer treatment that uses high-energy x-rays or other types of radiation to kill cancer cells or keep them from growing
- *Chemotherapy* is a cancer treatment that uses drugs to stop the growth of cancer cells, either by killing the cells or by stopping them from dividing
- *Targeted therapy* is a type of treatment that uses drugs or other substances to identify and attack specific cancer cells without harming normal cells.

*New types of treatment are being tested in clinical trials*

*Patients may want to think about taking part in a clinical trial*