

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