

OVARIAN CANCER & OTHER GYNECOLOGICAL CANCERS



RIO GRANDE
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RIBBON COLOR = TEAL



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SYMPTOMS	CERVICAL CANCER	OVARIAN CANCER	UTERINE CANCER	VAGINAL CANCER	VULVAR CANCER
Abnormal vaginal bleeding or discharge	●	●	●	●	○
Feeling full too quickly or difficulty eating	○	●	○	○	○
Pelvic pain or pressure	○	●	●	○	○
More frequent or urgent need to urinate and/or constipation	○	●	○	●	○
Bloating	○	●	○	○	○
Abdominal or back pain	○	●	○	○	○
Itching, burning, pain, or tenderness of the vulva	○	○	○	○	●
Changes in vulva color or skin, such as a rash, sores, or warts	○	○	○	○	●

Content source: Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Often times, these symptoms are not cancer. **Call your doctor today if you have one or more of these symptoms.**

Ovarian cancer is a disease affecting the ovaries, the reproductive organs responsible for producing eggs and female hormones. When detected and treated early, the survival rate is greater than 92 percent. However, ovarian cancer can affect women of all ages.

The good news is that today 50 percent of women are being diagnosed early – a marked improvement from five years ago.

ABOUT GYNECOLOGICAL CANCERS

Cancer of the cervix, the ovaries and the uterine or endometrial wall typically affect women ages 55-64 years. Risk factors for these types of cancer include family history of cancer, including breast and colon as well as gynecological cancers, obesity and use of estrogen. All women are at risk for gynecologic cancers, and risk increases with age. *When gynecologic cancers are found early, treatment is most effective.*

TYPES OF GYNECOLOGIC CANCER

Cervical cancer begins in the cervix, which is the lower, narrow end of the uterus. *(The uterus is also called the womb.)*

Ovarian cancer begins in the ovaries, which are located on each side of the uterus.

Uterine cancer begins in the uterus, the pear-shaped organ in a woman's pelvis where the baby grows when she is pregnant.

Vulvar cancer begins in the vulva, the outer part of the female genital organs.

Vaginal cancer begins in the vagina, which is the hollow, tube-like channel between the bottom of the uterus and the outside of the body.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Each gynecologic cancer is unique, with different signs, symptoms, risk factors, and different prevention strategies. All women are at risk for gynecologic cancers, and risk increases with age.

There is no way to know for sure if you will get a gynecologic cancer. That's why it is important to pay attention to your body and know what is normal for you, so you can recognize the warning signs or symptoms of gynecologic cancer. If you have vaginal bleeding that is unusual for you, talk to a doctor right away. Any vaginal bleeding after menopause needs to be reported to your doctor. If you have not yet gone through menopause but notice that your periods are heavier, last longer than normal for you, or if you're having unusual bleeding between periods, talk to your doctor.

See a doctor if you have any other warning signs that last for two weeks or longer and are not normal for you. Symptoms may be caused by something other than cancer, but the only way to know is to see a doctor.

RECOGNIZE THE WARNING SIGNS

Since there is no simple and reliable way to screen for any gynecologic cancers except cervical cancer, it is especially important to recognize warning signs and learn if there are things you can do to reduce your risk. Talk with your doctor if you believe that you are at increased risk for gynecologic cancer. Ask what you might do to lower your risk and whether there are tests that you should have.

WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE MY RISK?

HPV VACCINE

Some gynecologic cancers are caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV), a very common sexually transmitted infection. The HPV vaccine protects against the types of HPV that most often cause cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancers. HPV vaccination prevents new HPV infections, but does not treat existing infections or diseases. This is why the HPV vaccine works best when given before any exposure to HPV. You should get screened for cervical cancer regularly, even if you received an HPV vaccine.

GET TESTED

PAP TEST

Of all the gynecologic cancers, only cervical cancer has a screening test—the Pap test—that can find this cancer early, when treatment works best. The Pap test also helps prevent cervical cancer by finding precancers, cell changes on the cervix that might become cervical cancer if they are not treated appropriately.

HPV TEST

A test called the HPV test looks for HPV infection. It can be used for screening women aged 30 years and older.