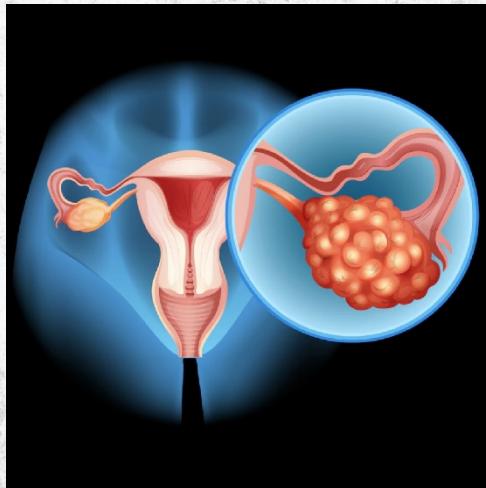


Ovarian cancer



Ovarian cancer is a growth of cells that forms in the ovaries. The cells multiply quickly and can invade and destroy healthy body tissue. This abnormal growth can cause the formation of a tumor, which can be benign (not cancerous) or malignant (cancerous).

The female reproductive system contains two ovaries, one on each side of the uterus. The ovaries produce eggs (ova) as well as the hormones estrogen and progesterone.

Symptoms:

In the early stages, ovarian cancer often has no symptoms until the later stages, when it may have spread through the abdomen. Symptoms might include:

Pain, bloating or discomfort in the abdomen

Feeling full quickly or losing your appetite

Bleeding or vaginal discharge that isn't normal

Changes in the bowel habits

Noticing lumps or an increase in size in your abdomen

Needing to urinate more frequently or urgently

Causes:

It's unclear what causes ovarian cancer, though doctors have identified things that can increase the risk of the disease.

Doctors know that ovarian cancer begins when cells in or near the ovaries develop changes (mutations) in their DNA.

Types of ovarian cancer:

The type of cell where the cancer begins determines the type of ovarian cancer and helps the doctor the best treatment. Ovarian cancer types include:

- **Epithelial ovarian cancer** is the most common. It includes several subtypes, including serous carcinoma and mucinous carcinoma.
- **Stromal tumors** are rare tumors are usually diagnosed at an earlier stage than other ovarian cancers.
- **Germ cell tumors** are rare ovarian cancers tend to occur at a younger age.

Risk Factors:

Older age.

Inherited gene changes. A small percentage of ovarian cancers are caused by genes changes you inherit from your parents

Being overweight or obese

Postmenopausal hormone replacement therapy

Treatment:



Treatment of ovarian cancer usually involves a combination of surgery and chemotherapy. Other treatments may be used in certain situations.

