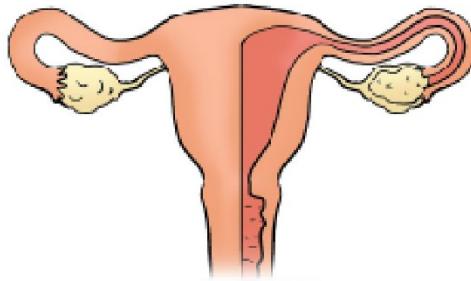


Endometrial cancer



Endometrial cancer is a type of uterine cancer. The uterus is the hollow, pear-shaped pelvic organ where fetal development occurs. Endometrial cancer begins in the layer of cells that form the lining (endometrium) of the uterus. Endometrial cancer is sometimes called uterine cancer. Other types of cancer can form in the uterus, including uterine sarcoma, but they are much less common than endometrial cancer.

Symptoms:

- Vaginal bleeding especially after menopause
- Bleeding between periods
- Pelvic pain

Causes:

The main reason for endometrial cancer is still unknown, however, what's known is that something occurs that create mutations in the DNA of cells in the endometrium. The mutation turns normal cells into abnormal cells. The difference

is that healthy cells grow and multiply at a set rate, eventually dying at a set time, but abnormal cells grow and multiply out of control, and they don't die at a set time. The accumulating abnormal cells form a mass (tumor). Cancer cells invade nearby tissues and can separate from an initial tumor to spread elsewhere in the body (metastasize).

Risk factors:

Changes in the balance of female hormones in the body.

More years of menstruation.

Never having been pregnant.

Older age.

Obesity.

Hormone therapy for breast cancer.

Treatment:

Treatment for endometrial cancer is usually with surgery to remove the uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries. There is also the option of radiation therapy. Drug treatments for endometrial cancer include chemotherapy with powerful drugs and hormone therapy to block hormones that cancer cells rely on. Other options might be targeted therapy with drugs that attack specific weaknesses in the cancer cells and immunotherapy to help your immune system fight cancer.

