

Ovarian Cancer 101



Ovarian cancer affects approximately 1 in 87 women, according to the American Cancer Society.

Here's what you need to know about ovarian cancer.

Are You at Risk?

Certain risk factors can increase your chance of developing ovarian cancer.

Age

The average age at diagnosis of ovarian cancer is 63, and the risk increases with age.

Genetics

Women of Eastern European or Ashkenazi Jewish heritage and those with certain genetic mutations are at higher risk.

History

A family history of ovarian cancer or personal history of breast, colorectal or uterine cancer may increase your risk.



Detecting Ovarian Cancer

Bloating, abdominal pain, excessive urination and feeling full quickly may indicate ovarian cancer. If you have symptoms and are peri- or post-menopausal, always check with your OBGYN. For a definitive diagnosis, your provider may perform:

Physical exam

You undergo a full exam, including a pelvic exam.

Blood tests

A simple blood test measures CA-125, a protein that can rise with ovarian cancer.

Imaging exams

A transvaginal ultrasound or CT scan can identify potentially cancerous tumors.

Treatment Options

Ovarian cancer treatment options include:

Chemotherapy

Special medicines destroy cancerous cells.

Hormone therapy

Medication reduces your natural hormone production, which slows cancer cell growth.

Immunotherapy

Your immune cells learn to identify and attack cancer.

Surgery

Your surgeon would remove all traces of cancer, along with the uterus, cervix, fallopian tubes and ovaries.



If you have concerns or symptoms, find a provider who can help. Visit weillcornell.org/doctors