



# WORLD OVARIAN CANCER DAY

8 MAY



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## Symptoms of Ovarian Cancer

Many ovarian cancer symptoms mimic those of less life-threatening conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome. These symptoms include:

- Bloating
- Pelvic or abdominal pain
- Urinary urgency or frequency
- Difficulty eating or feeling full quickly

## Late Stage Symptoms of Ovarian Cancer

- Spread of the cancer to other organs
- Loss of organ function
- Fluid in the abdomen (ascites)
- Blockage of the intestines

## Expectations (Prognosis) for Ovarian Cancer

Ovarian cancer is rarely diagnosed in its early stages. It is usually quite advanced by the time diagnosis is made

- About 3 out of 4 women with ovarian cancer survive 1 year after diagnosis
- Nearly half of women live longer than 5 years after diagnosis
- If diagnosis is made early in the disease and treatment is received before the cancer spreads outside the ovary, the 5-year survival rate is very high

## The protein CA-125 Blood Test

The protein CA-225 exists in greater concentration in cancerous cells. Though a high count of this protein may help doctors identify ovarian cancer, premenopausal women may have an elevated CA-125 due to benign conditions unrelated to ovarian cancer. Uterine fibroids, liver disease, inflammation of the fallopian tubes and other types of cancer can raise a woman's CA-125 level, often causing a false positive test for ovarian cancer.

## Treatment of Ovarian Cancer

Treatment for ovarian cancer usually involves a combination of surgery and chemotherapy. Less often, treatment may include radiotherapy. The type of treatment women receive depends on the type and stage of their ovarian cancer and their general health. Treatment is best managed by a gynaecological oncologist.