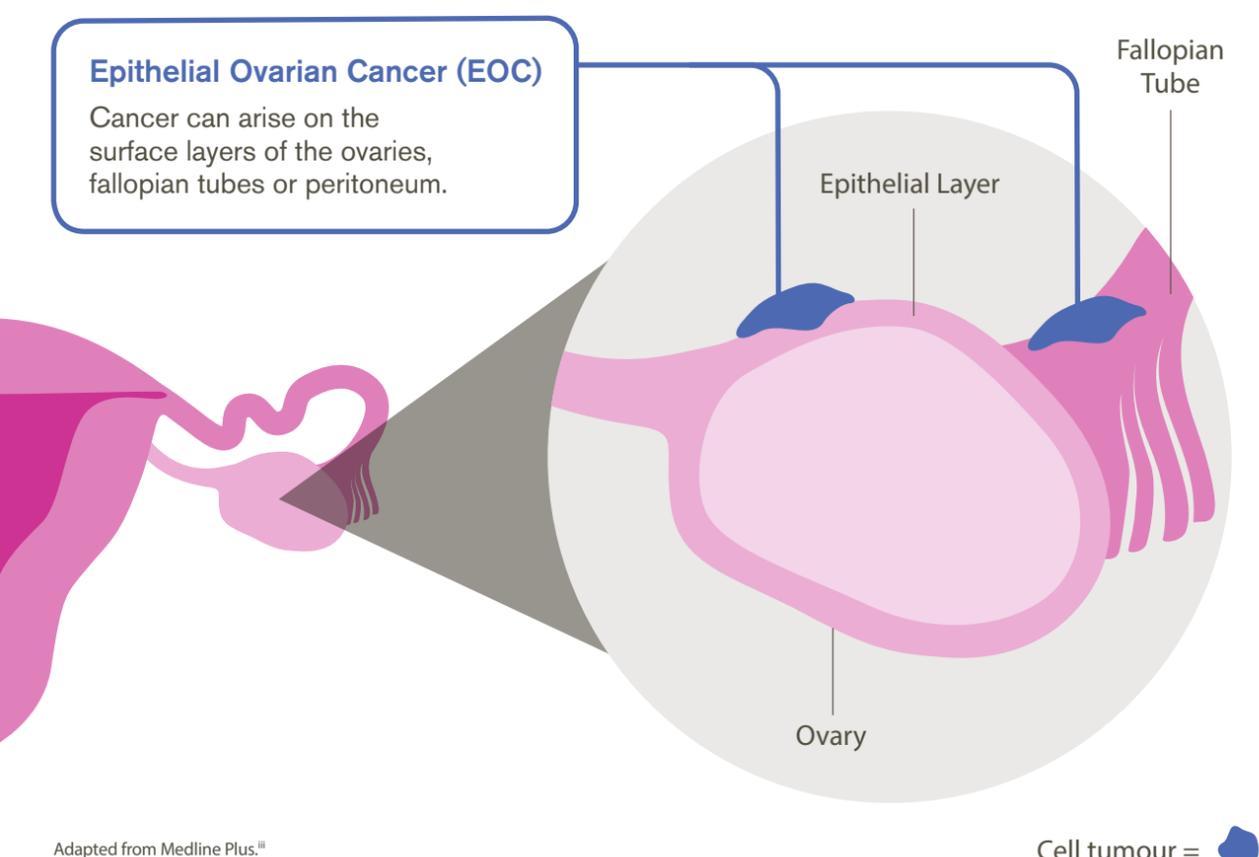


# About Ovarian Cancer

Ovarian cancer is a form of cancer that occurs due to the abnormal and uncontrolled growth of cells from the ovaries, fallopian tubes or peritoneum.<sup>i</sup>

Ovarian cancer can start from three common cell types: epithelium, germ cells and stromal cells.

The most common type of ovarian cancer is epithelial, which accounts for 90% of all cases of ovarian cancer.<sup>i</sup>



Adapted from Medline Plus.<sup>iii</sup>

## Causes

It's not clear what causes ovarian cancer, but risk factors include:<sup>i,ii</sup>

- Family history of ovarian or breast cancer
- Deleterious gene mutations including the *BRCA* gene
- Previously having endometriosis
- Increasing age
- Infertility
- Smoking
- Lynch syndrome (genetic disorder)



## Signs & Symptoms

Many women with early ovarian cancer have no signs or symptoms and when present, they are similar to other, more common and benign conditions. This can make for a challenging and late diagnosis. Some early symptoms are:<sup>i,ii</sup>

- Abdominal pain, swelling or bloating
- Changes in bowel movements
- Pelvic and lower back pain
- Fatigue
- Frequent or urgent need to urinate



## Patients & Prevalence

Epithelial ovarian cancer is the **most common** type of ovarian cancer<sup>i</sup>

In the US, ovarian cancer impacts **nearly 222,000** women annually<sup>iv</sup>

Ovarian cancer is the **5th most frequent** cause of cancer death among women<sup>v</sup>

Nearly **80% of women** with ovarian cancer are diagnosed in an **advanced stage**, when prognosis is poor<sup>vi</sup>

The **5-year survival** rate for women with all types of ovarian cancer is less than **50%**<sup>vi</sup>



## Diagnosis

To help diagnose ovarian cancer, exams and tests may be used, such as:<sup>ii</sup>

- Biopsy
- Physical evaluation and pelvic exam
- Ultrasound and other imaging tests
- Blood tests



## Treatment

In general, treatment for ovarian cancer may include a combination of the following:<sup>i,iii</sup>

- Surgery
- Targeted therapy
- Chemotherapy



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### References

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- <sup>iii</sup> Ovarian Cancer. MedlinePlus. <https://medlineplus.gov/ovariancancer.html>. Published August 20, 2019. Accessed April 2020.
- <sup>iv</sup> SEER Cancer Stat Facts: Ovarian Cancer. National Cancer Institute. Bethesda, MD. <http://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/ovary.html>. Accessed April 2020.
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- <sup>vi</sup> Ovarian, Fallopian Tube, and Peritoneal Cancer: Statistics. Cancer.net. <https://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/ovarian-fallopian-tube-and-peritoneal-cancer/statistics>. Accessed April 2020.