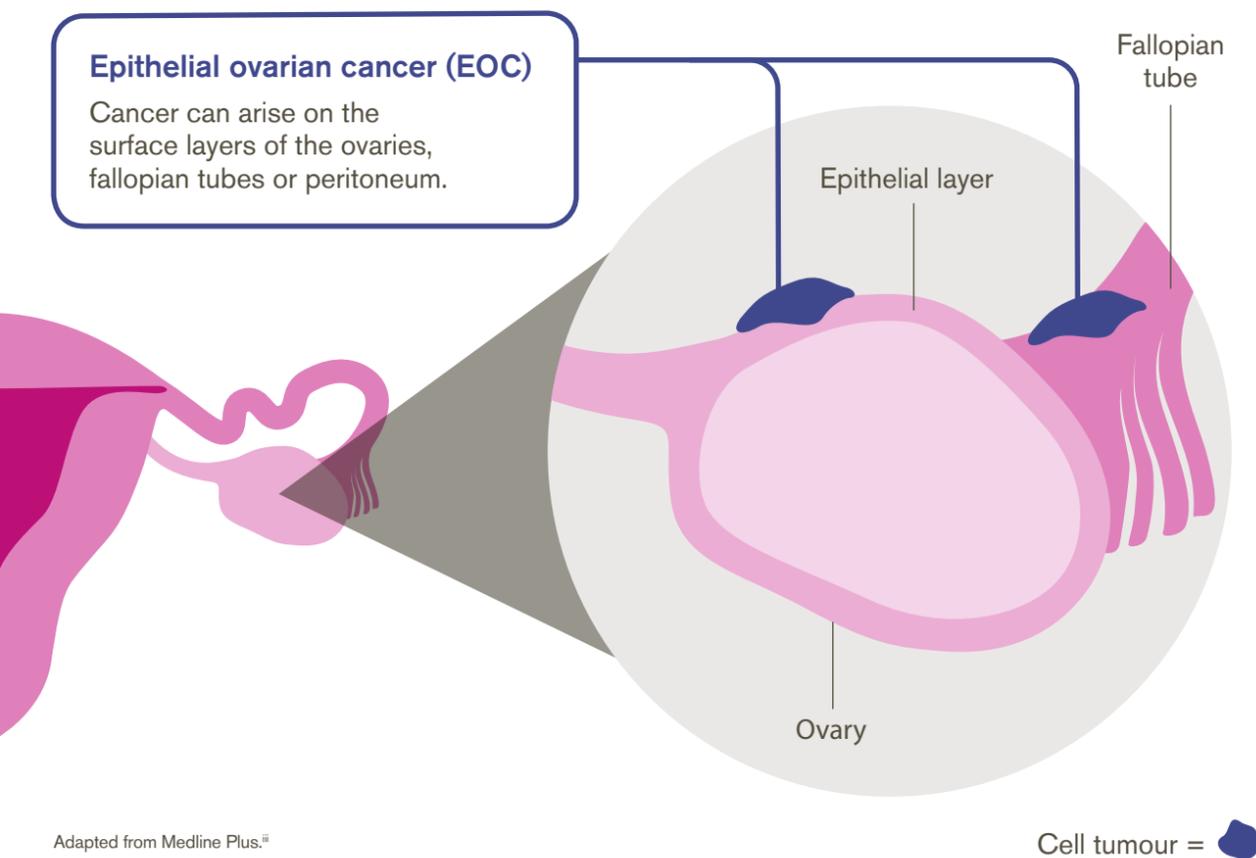


About ovarian cancer

Ovarian cancer occurs due to the abnormal and uncontrolled growth of cells from the ovaries, fallopian tubes or peritoneum.ⁱ

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.ⁱ



Adapted from Medline Plus.ⁱⁱⁱ

Causes

Researchers are hard at work determining the cause of ovarian cancer. Risk factors can include:^{i,ii}

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



Signs & symptoms

Many ovarian cancer patients do not experience signs or symptoms which pose challenges to diagnosis. Some early symptoms are:^{i,ii}

- 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 cancerⁱ

Ovarian cancer accounts for **3.6%** of an estimated **8.8 million new cases** of cancer in women worldwide^{iv}

Ovarian cancer is the **8th most common cancer** in women worldwide^{iv}

Approximately **60% of women** with ovarian cancer are diagnosed in an **advanced stage**, when prognosis is poor^v

The **5-year survival** rate for women with all types of ovarian cancer is less than **50%**^v



Diagnosis

Exams and tests that successfully diagnose ovarian cancer include:ⁱⁱ

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



Treatment

Treatment for ovarian cancer may include a combination of the following:^{i,iii}

- Surgery
- Targeted therapy
- Chemotherapy



References

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