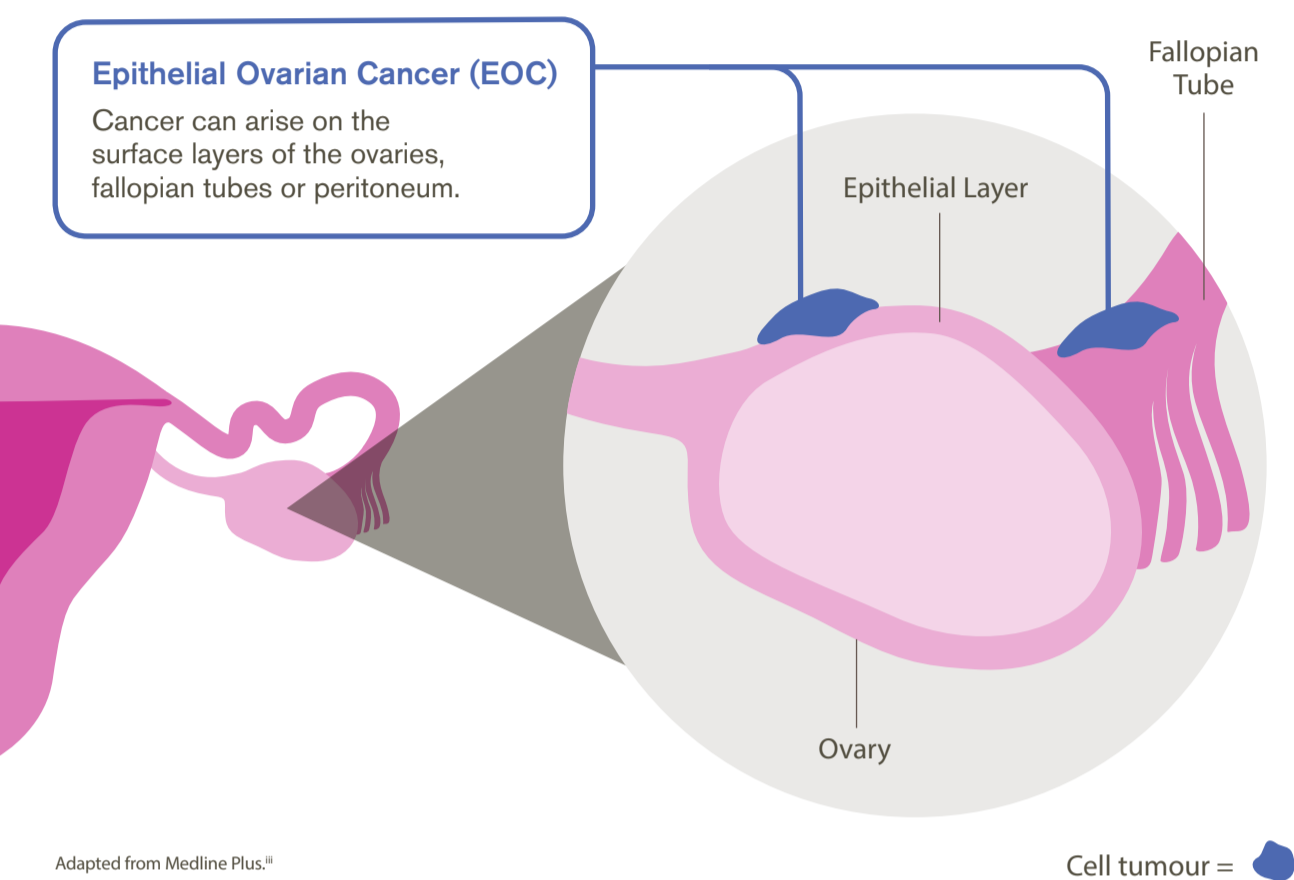


# About Ovarian Cancer

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>

Ovarian cancer accounts for **3.6%** of an estimated **8.6 million new cases** of cancer in women worldwide<sup>iv</sup>

Ovarian cancer is the **8th most common cancer** in women worldwide<sup>iv</sup>

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

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

- Surgery
- Targeted therapy
- Chemotherapy



### References

- <sup>i</sup> Drapkin, RI. Ovarian Cancer. National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD). <https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/ovarian-cancer/>. Accessed April 2020.
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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> Worldwide Cancer Data. World Cancer Research Fund. <https://www.wcrf.org/dietandcancer/cancer-trends/worldwide-cancer-data>. Published July 17, 2019. Accessed April 2020.
- <sup>v</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.