

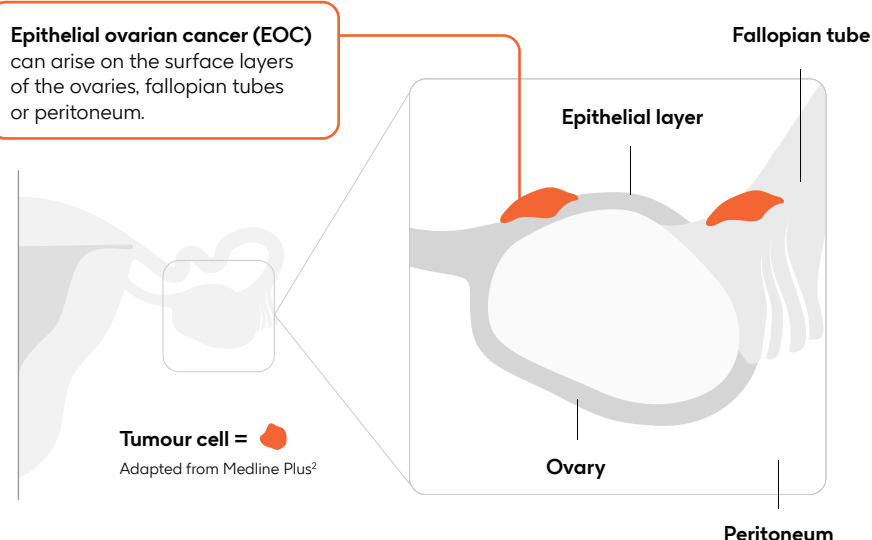


About epithelial ovarian cancer

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.¹

The most common type of ovarian cancer is epithelial, which accounts for 90% of all cases of ovarian cancer.¹⁰

Epithelial ovarian cancer (EOC) can arise on the surface layers of the ovaries, fallopian tubes or peritoneum.



Risk factors

Researchers are hard at work determining the causes of ovarian cancer. Risk factors can include:³

- Family history of ovarian or breast cancer
- Deleterious genetic mutations, including the BRCA gene and Lynch syndrome
- History of endometriosis
- Increasing age
- Infertility
- Smoking

Signs & symptoms

Many people with ovarian cancer have no signs or symptoms. When symptoms are present, they may be similar to other more common and benign conditions. This can make for a challenging or late diagnosis. Some early symptoms are:⁴

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

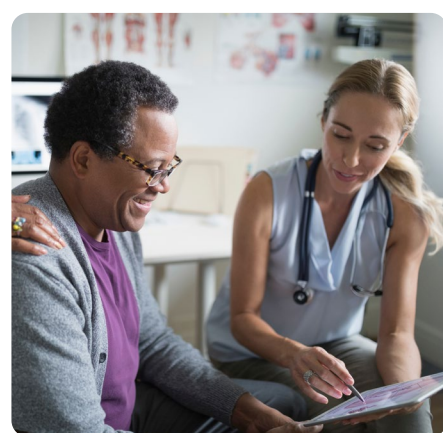
Patients & prevalence

Ovarian cancer accounts for **3.4% of an estimated 9.6 million new cases of cancer** among those requiring gynaecologic care⁵

Ovarian cancer is the **8th most common cancer** in those requiring gynaecologic care⁵

Approximately **80%** of people with ovarian cancer are **diagnosed in an advanced stage**, when prognosis is poor⁶

The **5-year survival rate** for people with ovarian cancer is **93.1%** for people diagnosed at an early stage, **74.5%** for people diagnosed in an intermediate stage, and **30.8%** for people diagnosed in an advanced stage.¹² Survival rates vary based on several factors, including stage, cell type, grade of cancer, and can change over time.^{7,12}



Diagnosis

To help diagnose ovarian cancer, exams and tests may be used, such as:⁸

- History and physical evaluation, including pelvic exam
- Biopsy
- Ultrasound and other imaging tests
- Blood tests

Biomarker testing

Biomarker and genetic testing are critical to inform treatment plans. Important biomarkers include, but are not limited to:^{9,11,13}

- BRCA1 and BRCA2
- Homologous recombination deficiency (HRD)
- CA125
- Folate receptor-alpha (FR-alpha)
- Neurotrophic Tropomyosin Receptor Kinase (NTRK)

Treatment

Treatment for ovarian cancer may vary depending on the stage at diagnosis and features of the tumour, including biomarkers. Treatment may include one or more of the following:^{2,11}

- Surgery
- Chemotherapy
- Targeted therapy

1. Cancer Research UK. What is ovarian cancer? <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/ovarian-cancer/what-is-ovarian-cancer>. Updated November 2024. Accessed January 2026.
2. Ovarian Cancer. MedlinePlus. <https://medlineplus.gov/ovariancancer.html>. Updated September 2022. Accessed January 2026.
3. Cancer Research UK. Risks and Causes of Ovarian Cancer. <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/ovarian-cancer/risks-causes>. Accessed January 2026.
4. World Ovarian Cancer Coalition. Ovarian Cancer Symptoms & Risks. <https://worldovariancancercoalition.org/about-ovarian-cancer/symptoms-risk-factors/ovarian-cancer-symptoms/>. Accessed January 2026.
5. Worldwide Cancer Data. World Cancer Research Fund. <https://www.wcrf.org/preventing-cancer/cancer-statistics/worldwide-cancer-data/>. Updated May 2024. Accessed January 2026.
6. World Ovarian Cancer Coalition. Ovarian Cancer Key Stats. <https://worldovariancancercoalition.org/about-ovarian-cancer/key-stats/>. Accessed January 2026.
7. Ovarian, Fallopian Tube, and Peritoneal Cancer: Statistics. Cancer.net. <https://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/ovarian-fallopian-tube-and-peritoneal-cancer/statistics>. Updated February 2022. Accessed January 2026.
8. Ovarian, Fallopian Tube, and Peritoneal Cancer: Diagnosis. Cancer.net. <https://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/ovarian-fallopian-tube-and-peritoneal-cancer/diagnosis>. Updated September 2021. Accessed January 2026.
9. The Role of Biomarkers and Genetics in Ovarian Cancer: Five Facts. GSK. <https://us.gsk.com/en-us/behind-the-science-us-edition/the-role-of-biomarkers-and-genetics-in-ovarian-cancer-five-facts/>. Accessed January 2026.
10. Cleveland Clinic. <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/22250-epithelial-ovarian-cancer>. Updated August 2025. Accessed January 2026.
11. American Cancer Society. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/ovarian-cancer/detection-diagnosis-staging.html>. Updated August 2025. Accessed January 2026.
12. Moffit Cancer Center. Ovarian Cancer Survival Rate. <https://www.moffitt.org/cancers/ovarian-cancer/survival-rate/>. Accessed February 2026.
13. Mayo Clinic. CA 125 test. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/ca-125-test/about/pac-20393295>. Updated March 2025. Accessed February 2026.