

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OVARIAN CANCER

Ovarian cancer is one of the most common gynecologic malignancies in the United States. This year over 22,280 new cases will be detected and 14,240 women will die of disease. Women at highest risk to develop ovarian cancer are over the age of 50 or have a relative with ovarian cancer. Early ovarian cancer produces few specific symptoms so that the disease is often advanced by the time it is diagnosed. Therefore, medical research has focused on methods for the early detection of this disease.



SCREENING

Ovarian cancer screening is performed using ultrasound (sound waves). These sound waves can form an accurate picture of each ovary, and even small tumors can be detected. The screening procedure is painless and takes 5-10 minutes. Ovarian cancer screening is performed at the University of Kentucky as part of a research study. The goal of this study is to determine the effect of annual ultrasound screening on the early detection of ovarian cancer. Thus far, annual ultrasound screening has resulted in detecting ovarian cancer at an earlier stage, and the survival of women whose cancers were detected by screening is higher than those who did not have screening. Women eligible for participation in the University of Kentucky Ovarian Cancer Screening Program are all women 50 or more years of age or women 25 or more years of age with a family history of ovarian cancer, who can understand & provide necessary information.

SYMPTOMS

The most common symptoms of ovarian cancer are:

- ◆ a feeling of bloating
- ◆ increasing abdominal size
- ◆ pelvic pressure

Although many women experiencing such symptoms will not be diagnosed as actually having ovarian cancer, it is recommended that all women noting the described symptoms consult their physician as soon as possible.

TREATMENT

Most ovarian cancers are best treated by a combination of surgery and chemotherapy.

The surgery usually involves removal of the uterus, as well as both ovaries and fallopian tubes (i.e. total abdominal hysterectomy, with bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy). In addition, every effort is made to remove as much tumor as possible.

The kind of chemotherapy used depends on the type, and extent, of cancer present. The treatment is generally administered at monthly intervals for at least 6 months. If no evidence of cancer exists after this period, chemotherapy



is usually discontinued.

HELP YOURSELF

Scientific knowledge of ovarian cancer grows daily as research finds new keys to controlling, and in some cases eliminating, the disease.

However, scientific knowledge can only be applied if the cancer is discovered promptly.

Therefore, each woman should:

- ◆ Be aware of the described symptoms of ovarian cancer.
- ◆ Schedule a regular yearly pelvic examination.
- ◆ Participate in the University of Kentucky Ovarian Screening Research Program at yearly intervals.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further information concerning the Ovarian Cancer Screening Program, please call:

1-800-766-8279

or

859-323-4687



More information can be found on our WEB site at:

<http://ovarianscreening.info>

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OVARIAN CANCER SCREENING

