

CancerStats Key Facts

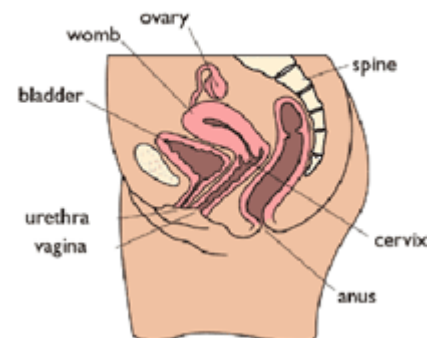
Ovarian Cancer

Cancer Research UK's 'CancerStats – Key Facts' series provides accessible, top line statistics and facts on cancer. The charity's Statistical Information Team also produces evidence-based reports, charts and tabulations. All of this information can be accessed on our CancerStats website: <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats> or by emailing stats.team@cancer.org.uk.

How common is ovarian cancer?

- Ovarian cancer is the fifth most common cancer in females in the UK and the second most common gynaecological cancer after uterus.
- There are around 6,600 new cases of ovarian cancer diagnosed each year in the UK, that is around 125 women every week.
- Ovarian cancer is more common in women who have been through the menopause: more than 8 in 10 new cases are diagnosed in women aged over 50 years.
- Since the mid 1970s, the incidence of ovarian cancer in women over 65 has increased by more than 40%.
- Worldwide, there are more than 204,000 new cases of ovarian cancer diagnosed each year.
- The incidence of ovarian cancer is highest in USA and Northern Europe and lowest in Africa and Asia.

Diagram of Womb (side view)



How many women survive ovarian cancer?

- Ovarian cancer survival rates are higher the earlier the cancer is diagnosed. Women with early stage ovarian cancer have survival rates in excess of 70%.
- Survival rates for ovarian cancer have increased slowly since the 1970s. Latest rates show that around 40% of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer survive the disease for at least five years.
- Ovarian cancer survival rates are highest in younger women who are more often diagnosed with early cancer.

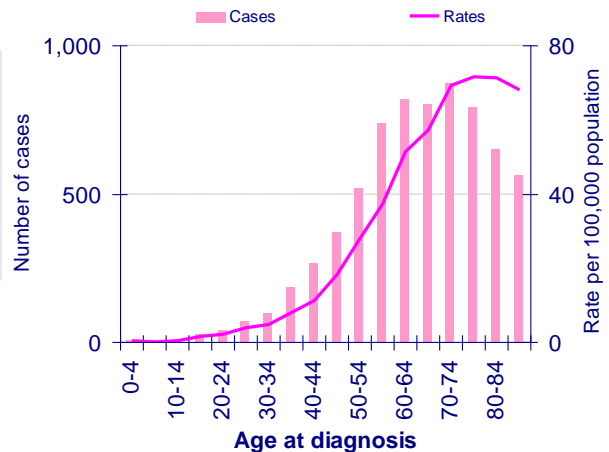
How many women die from ovarian cancer?

- Ovarian cancer is the fourth most common cause of cancer death in women in the UK and the most common cause of gynaecological cancer death.
- Around 4,300 women die of ovarian cancer each year in the UK.
- Despite increasing incidence, ovarian cancer mortality has remained fairly stable over the last thirty years, and in younger women it has decreased.
- Worldwide, an estimated 125,000 women die of ovarian cancer each year.

What causes ovarian cancer?

- The risk of ovarian cancer increases with age; more than 4 out of 5 cases are diagnosed in women over 50 years.
- Women with a BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene mutation have an increased risk of ovarian cancer.
- Women who have not had children have a higher risk of ovarian cancer than women who have given birth.
- Oral contraceptive use reduces the risk of ovarian cancer and the protective effect persists for many years after stopping the Pill.
- Women taking hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for more than five years have an increased risk of ovarian cancer.
- Women with endometriosis have a greater than average risk of ovarian cancer.
- Research shows that women who have difficulties conceiving may have a higher risk of ovarian cancer than fertile women.
- Sterilisation by tubal ligation (having your tubes tied) has been shown to reduce the risk of ovarian cancer.
- The evidence suggests that women who breastfeed their children have a lower risk of ovarian cancer than those who do not.
- Research suggests that women who are overweight or obese have an increased risk of ovarian cancer.

Ovarian cancer is more common in post-menopausal women



Ovarian cancer - UK		Females
Number of new cases (UK 2006)		6,596
Rate per 100,000 population*		16.9
Number of deaths (UK 2007)		4,317
Rate per 100,000 population*		9.8
One-year survival rate** (patients diagnosed in 2000-2001, England & Wales)		70%
Five-year survival rate** (patients diagnosed in 2000-2001, England & Wales)		41%

* Age-standardised to European standard population **period estimates