

September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Ovarian cancer is one of the most common cancers in women, and the fifth most deadly, with more than 14,000 deaths occurring each year in the United States. Ovarian cancer has the highest mortality rate of all gynecological cancers, in part because symptoms often go undetected.

Increasing age and a family history of the disease are the strongest risk factors.

The most common early symptoms might include abdominal pain, nausea, gas, constipation, frequent urination and unexplained weight loss or gain. Knowing the early signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer can lead to early diagnosis and life-saving treatment.

Screening for ovarian cancer is difficult, but pelvic imaging and blood tests are currently the best tests for diagnosing ovarian cancer.

For information on ovarian cancer risk, screening, diagnosis and treatment, visit:

RadiologyInfo.org:

- Ovarian Cancer
- Ultrasound of the Pelvis
- External Beam Therapy
- Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
- Cryotherapy

Additional websites:

- RTAnswers.com: Radiation Therapy for Gynecologic Cancers
- National Cancer Institute: Ovarian Cancer
- National Ovarian Cancer Coalition: <http://www.ovarian.org/>
- American Cancer Society: Ovarian Cancer

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