



“ Like so many women, I was diagnosed at a fairly advanced stage of ovarian cancer - stage 3c.

This meant that the cancer had spread to my fallopian tubes and ovaries.

The diagnosis came as a huge shock, because I had not displayed any of the usual symptoms of ovarian cancer, such as bloating or abdominal pain.

And that is why I would urge everyone to spread the word about signs and

symptoms and support
The Eve Appeal



About The Eve Appeal

The Eve Appeal was launched in 2002 and is the UK's **only national gynaecological cancer research charity**. Our mission is to raise funds for research and to save lives from these diseases.

The Eve Appeal shares in a united vision with the Department of Women's Cancer at University College London. Our vision is simple: A future where fewer women develop and more women survive gynaecological cancers.

If you have any comments or suggestions for improving future editions please get in touch directly using the contact details below. To access our list of references, please contact us directly.

All information correct at time of publication

Where can I get further information?

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the **eve** appeal

protecting women from
gynaecological cancers

What
women
need to
know...

...about
**ovarian
cancer**

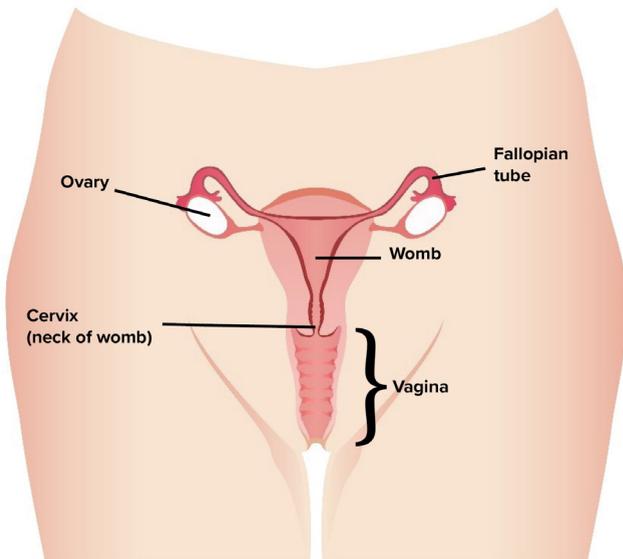
signs &
symptoms
information
leaflet



Key messages for women about ovarian cancer

- ♥ In the UK around 7,300 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year. 1 in 52 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer in their lifetime.¹
- ♥ It is the sixth most common cancer in women after breast, bowel, lung, uterine (womb) cancer and melanoma skin cancer.
- ♥ The risk of ovarian cancer increases with age, particularly after the menopause – although it can affect women of any age.
- ♥ There is currently no NHS screening programme for ovarian cancer – remember that cervical screening (smears) are not designed to detect ovarian cancer.

The female reproductive system



Key signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer

Signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer are often the same as those of other less serious conditions, such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) or pre-menstrual syndrome (PMS). Hence, most women presenting with these symptoms do not have ovarian cancer.

However, there are four main signs and symptoms that, when persistent for 3 weeks or more, are associated with ovarian cancer. These are:

- ♥ Increased abdominal size and persistent bloating (not bloating that comes and goes)
- ♥ Persistent pelvic and abdominal pain
- ♥ Difficulty eating and feeling full quickly, or feeling nauseous
- ♥ Changes in bowel habits, e.g. constipation or diarrhoea

Risk factors...

The risk of ovarian cancer may be increased by the following factors:

- ♥ **Age** - The risk of ovarian cancer increases with age, with most cases occurring after the menopause. More than 8 out of 10 cases of ovarian cancer occur in women who are over 50 years of age.
- ♥ **Family history** - There are two inherited gene mutations that are linked to an increased risk of developing ovarian cancer: BRCA gene mutations and Lynch syndrome. If members of your family are known to have one of these conditions, you can ask your GP if you should be referred to a Clinical Geneticist for further advice.

Get involved

Title..... Name.....
Address.....
..... Postcode.....
Tel..... Email.....

I would like further information on...

- The Eve Appeal
- Fundraising
- Volunteering
- Being a case study
- Leaving a legacy
- Making a regular donation

I would like to donate...

I wish to donate £.....
 cheque (payable to The Eve Appeal) **OR**
 credit/debit card

Card type..... Expiry date.....

Card number.....

Security code (last 3 digits on back of card).....

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 donated.
Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

- I am a UK taxpayer*
- I am not a UK taxpayer

*I want to Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to The Eve Appeal (Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund). I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature..... Date.....

Please return to:

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