

Jane began to experience unusual vaginal bleeding, which she knew wasn't right for her, and unknown to her, this would lead to a diagnosis of womb cancer...

“

After a few episodes of spot bleeding, I decided I needed to visit my GP. Following a number of tests and biopsies, they discovered I had polyps, but then I received a call to discuss the results of the biopsy further.

This set alarm bells ringing – so much so I took my daughters along with me for support. It was here where I went numb after being told that I had in fact been diagnosed with womb cancer; there was so much information to take in my head was just all over the place.

The diagnosis was a shock, all the more so since I had not heard of womb cancer. However, I'm now recovering well following a hysterectomy, but I'd urge any woman that if you notice any unusual bleeding – please, please visit your GP – it could just save your life.

”

Jane Kenneford,
Womb cancer patient

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 **womb cancer**

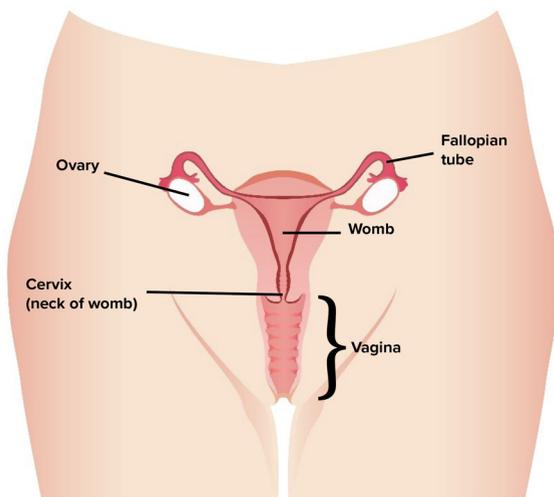
signs & symptoms information leaflet



Key messages for women about womb cancer

- ♥ Around 9,300 women are diagnosed with womb cancer in the UK each year. 1 in 41 women will get womb cancer in their lifetime¹
- ♥ Womb cancer is the fourth most common cancer in UK women. It is the most common gynaecological cancer overall and is most common in women who have been through the menopause. It is on the increase, possibly because we are living longer and because of higher rates of obesity in the UK
- ♥ The most common type of womb cancer is endometrial cancer, which starts in the womb lining
- ♥ Many women with womb cancer are diagnosed early and treated successfully with surgery alone
- ♥ Over 75% of women survive womb cancer for at least 10 years. Even if the cancer is diagnosed at a more advanced stage, it can still be managed by surgery followed by additional treatment such as radiotherapy and chemotherapy

The female reproductive system



Key signs and symptoms of womb cancer

The most common sign of womb cancer is abnormal bleeding from the vagina – especially in those who have already been through the menopause. Around 90% of womb cancer diagnoses are made following post-menopausal or irregular vaginal bleeding.¹¹

This abnormal bleeding can be:

- ♥ After the menopause
- ♥ Unusually heavy or in-between periods (in pre-menopausal women)
- ♥ Blood-stained vaginal discharge – from pink and watery through to brown or prune coloured

Risk factors for womb cancer

- ♥ Being overweight or obese can dramatically increase the risk of womb cancer, because body fat increases the amount of the female hormone oestrogen. The best way of reducing risk is to maintain a healthy body weight
- ♥ Up to 1 in 10 cases of womb cancer may be linked to genetic causes (e.g. Lynch syndrome).
- ♥ The oral contraceptive pill can reduce the risk of womb cancer (it also reduces the risk of ovarian cancer)
- ♥ Some types of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) can increase the risk of womb cancer, whilst others can reduce the risk
- ♥ Diabetes has been associated with an increased risk of womb cancer.
- ♥ Women with PCOS (polycystic ovary syndrome) may have an increased risk of womb cancer.

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 year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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

Please return to:

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