

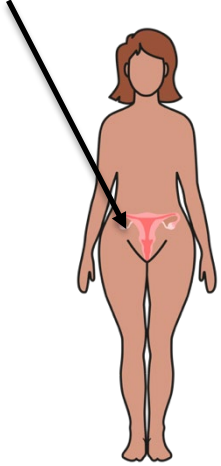
Information about a type of cancer called ovarian cancer

This information is for women and people with ovaries





What is in this information



What is ovarian cancer?

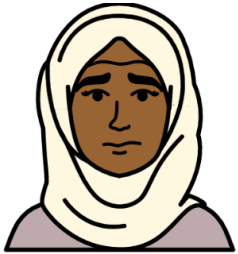
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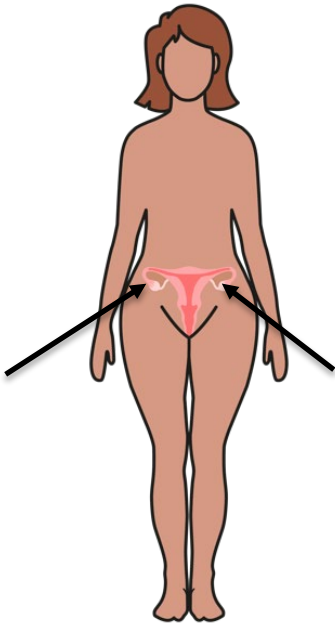
What is ovarian cancer?

Ovarian cancer is a cancer that starts in the **ovaries**.

Your ovaries are inside your body near your vagina.

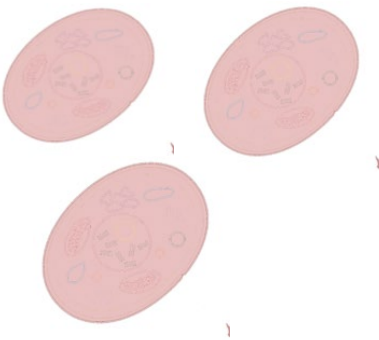
Your vagina is down below in your body between your legs.

There are 2 ovaries.



Your ovaries are made up of lots of small things called **cells**.

Ovarian cancer can happen if the cells start to change and grow in the wrong way.



What are the signs of ovarian cancer?

The main signs of ovarian cancer are below:

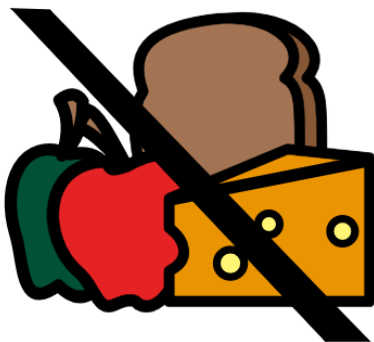


1. If your tummy grows a bit bigger and it stays big when you do not think it should do.



2. If your tummy feels more full all the time after eating your normal amount of food.

3. If you have pain in your tummy all the time.



4. If you find it harder to eat.

For example, if you feel full quickly.

Or if you don't feel like eating.

Or if you feel sick.



5. If you need to wee more often and more quickly.



You might also have some of the things below:

- Feeling tired.
- Pain in your back.
- Losing weight.
- Finding it hard to have a poo.
Or doing a poo more often.
- Bleeding from your vagina when
you do not think you should be.



Some of these things are like other illnesses.

But it is important to check with your doctor anyway if you are not sure.



How does ovarian cancer start?

We do not always know.



Ovarian cancer can happen to women or people who have ovaries at any age.

But it happens more to women over 50 years old after the **menopause**.

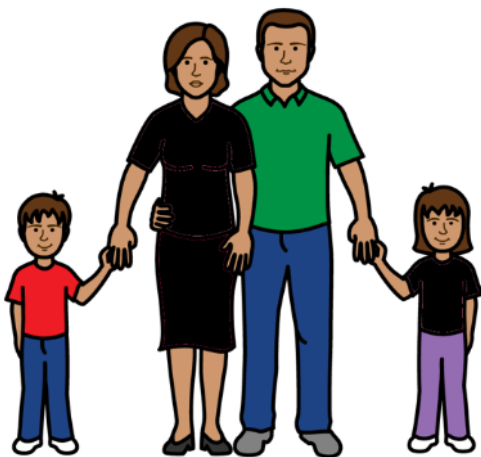
The menopause is when women stop having periods for good.

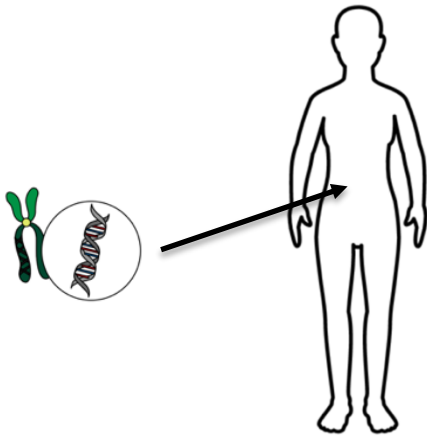
Ovarian cancer might also happen more to people who have other family members with cancer.

That means other people in their family have had types of cancer like:

- Ovarian cancer
- Breast cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Pancreatic cancer

Other people in the family means parents, sisters, brothers or children.



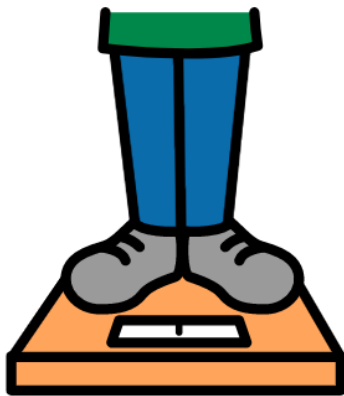


Some family members may have a change in their bodies that could cause cancer.

The thing in their bodies that could change is called a **BRCA gene**.

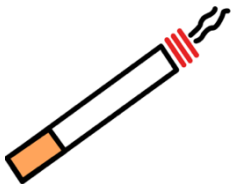


Your doctor might send you for a test to check if you have this in your body too.



You might also be more likely to get ovarian cancer if:

- You weigh more than you should.
- You smoke.
- You have an illness called diabetes.
- You use a medicine called HRT for the menopause.
- You have a health condition called endometriosis.

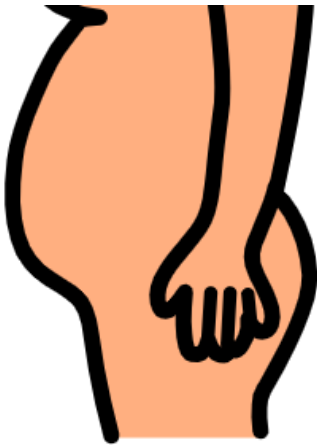


What to do if you are worried



It is important to check with your doctor if you have any signs of ovarian cancer.

It is probably not ovarian cancer. But it is best to check.



What might happen if you go to the doctor

Your doctor might feel your tummy.



You might have a blood test if the doctor wants to find out more.

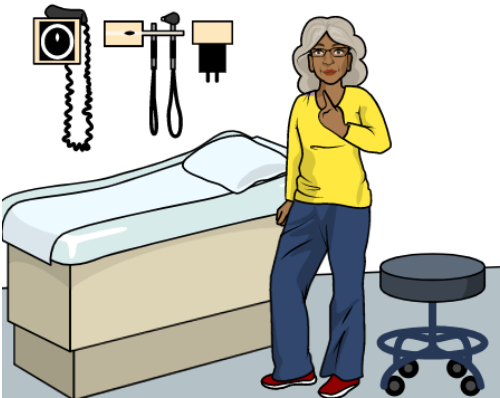
You might need to have other tests after that.

For example, you might need a scan to show what is happening in your ovaries.

What happens if you have ovarian cancer

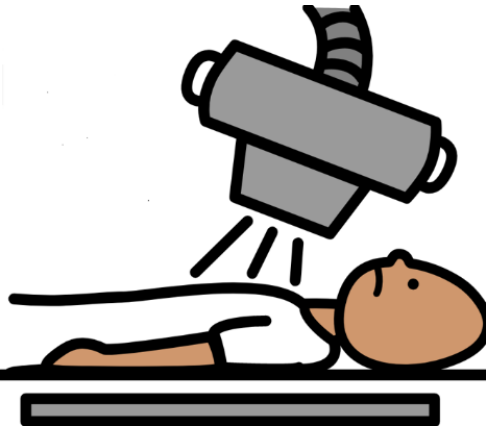
Having more tests

You will have some more tests to see how big the cancer is.



You might have a test called a **scan**.

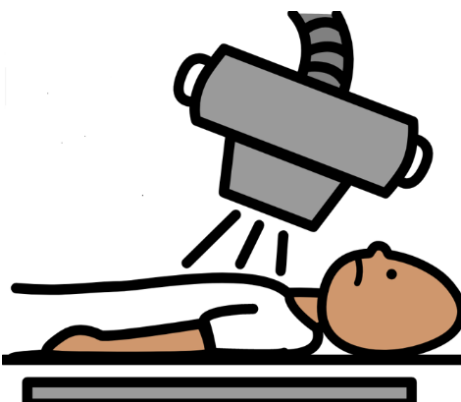
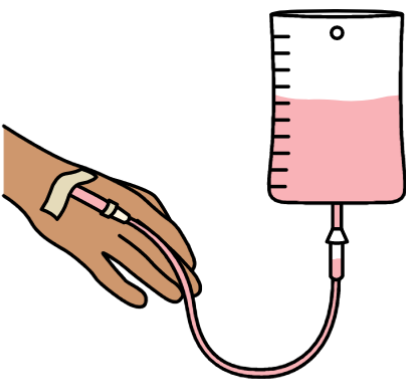
This to help doctors decide what treatment might be best.



Medical treatment

You might get medical treatment called:

- **Chemotherapy.** This is usually pills or a liquid to try to get rid of the cancer.
- **Or Radiotherapy.** This is where a machine is used to try to get rid of the cancer.



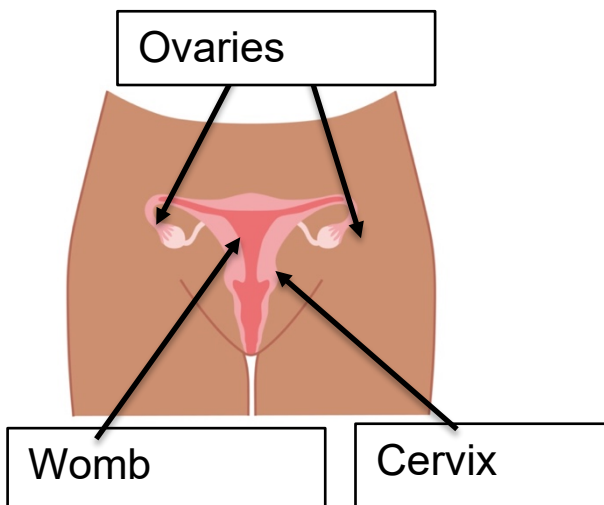


You might have chemotherapy or radiotherapy together.

That can sometimes help to stop the cancer coming back.

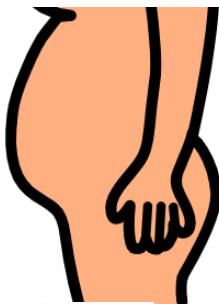


You might also have an operation.



In the operation doctors usually take out your ovaries and other things near your ovaries.

Like your womb and cervix. This is where a baby grows.

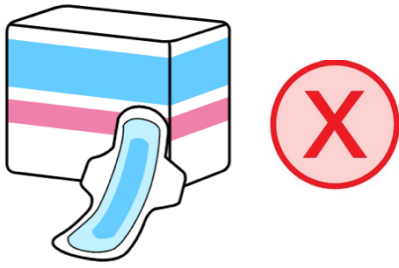


Some other things might also need to be taken out. Like bits from your stomach.

That is to try to get rid of the cancer.



You cannot get pregnant if your ovaries are taken out.



It will also stop your periods forever if you still have them.



You can talk to your doctor about your treatment and ask any questions.

How to get more information



We have nurses you can speak to for more information and advice.

This service is private and free.

It is called **Ask Eve**.



Phone us free on: 0808 802 0019



Or email: nurse@eveappeal.org.uk