Ovarian cancer

Epidemiology

Ovarian cancer is the most deadly of all cancers that affect women.1

- New cases: 23,550
- Lethality: 15,890
- Mortality: 15,890

Types of ovarian cancer

- Epithelial: The most common type, accounting for 90% of malignant ovarian cancers.2
- Stromal cell cancer: accounting for 3% of ovarian cancers.4
- Gastrointestinal: accounting for 3% of ovarian cancers.4
- Germ cell cancer: accounting for 0-5% of ovarian cancers.4

Risk factors

- Lifestyle: Obesity, smoking and inactive lifestyle.4
- Menopause:
  - Pre-menopausal age: 40-50% increase in ovarian cancer risk.9
  - Late menopause: 10-20% increase in ovarian cancer risk.9
- Family history: Women with a family history of ovarian cancer are at increased risk.5
- Genetics:
  - BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations are associated with an increased risk of ovarian cancer.4
  - Women with certain inherited genetic mutations, such as BRCA1 or BRCA2, are at increased risk of developing ovarian cancer.4

Symptoms

- Symptoms are non-specific and can be confused with gastrointestinal complaints, making early diagnosis difficult.6

Treatment

- Surgery: Removal of the uterus and ovaries, providing the best chance of cure.4
- Chemotherapy: ± targeted therapy.18
- Radiotherapy: About every 50% of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer receive radiotherapy.3

Therapy options in advanced disease

- If the disease returns after first-line chemotherapy, it is known as recurrent ovarian cancer.6

References

3. Permuth-Wey and Sellers.2