

## Fact Sheet 1

### Signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer

Ovacome is a national advice and support organisation that works to connect patients, their family and friends; provide information on treatments, screening and research; raise awareness and support and give a voice to all those affected by ovarian cancer.

Ovarian cancer affects approximately 6800 women each year in the UK.

It appears more often in women over 45 and after the menopause.

In most cases, there is no particular reason why the cancer appears. However, a small number of ovarian cancers are caused because of a faulty gene which runs in the family.

On average, a GP will see one new case every five years.

Ovarian cancer can be hard to diagnose, because the symptoms can be similar to quite common and less serious conditions.

If your cancer is found at an early stage treatment may be more successful with better results.

### The three most common symptoms of ovarian cancer are:

- Persistent bloating of abdomen- not bloating that comes and goes.
- Difficulty with eating and feeling full quickly.
- Abdominal and pelvic pain.

### Other symptoms you can experience include:

- Changes in your bladder habits (going to pass urine more often.)
- Changes in your bowel movements and habits.
- Extreme tiredness or fatigue.
- Backache.

Ovarian cancer is relatively uncommon, but if you are worried talk to your GP.

Remember to tell your doctor if you have close family members who have had breast or ovarian cancer.

A smear test screens for cervical cancer but it will not detect ovarian cancer.

If you would like more information or if you would like to discuss anything about ovarian cancer, please phone our support line on 0845 371 0554, Monday to Friday between 10.00hrs and 17.00 hrs. Alternatively, please visit our website at [www.ovacome.org.uk](http://www.ovacome.org.uk)

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Disclaimer:

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