

ovacome..
ovarian cancer

Stage 2 ovarian cancer



Ovacom is a national charity providing support and information to anyone affected by ovarian cancer.

We run a free telephone and email support line and work to raise awareness and give a voice to all those affected by ovarian cancer.

This booklet is part of a series giving clinical information about ovarian cancer.

It is for those who have been diagnosed with stage 2 ovarian cancer and want more information about their cancer and how it is treated.



Stage 2 ovarian cancer

The ovarian cancer stage means how far your cancer has spread at the time it is discovered.

Cancer staging

The stage of your cancer may be assessed after your diagnostic tests, but it is usually confirmed after surgery.

During your operation to remove the cancer, the surgeon may take samples from the cancer and from fluid which are then examined under a microscope. This usually shows the stage of your cancer.

The system of staging also applies to fallopian tube and primary peritoneal cancers.

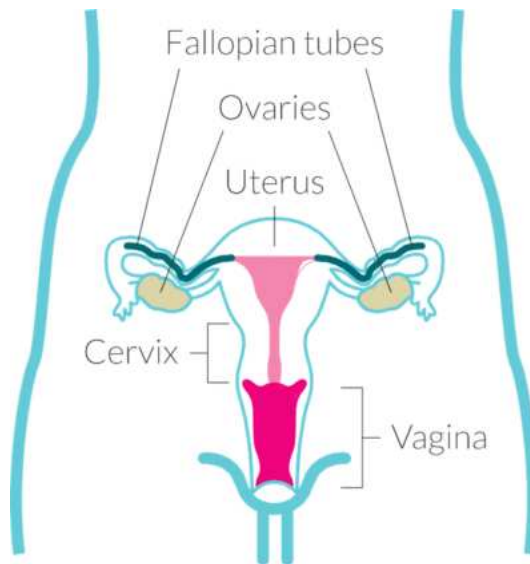
What is stage 2 ovarian cancer?

Stage 2 is when the cancer has spread beyond the ovary to the pelvis. Stage 2 ovarian cancer is divided into two further categories:


- Stage 2a means the cancer is present in the ovary and has spread to the fallopian tubes and/or the womb.

- Stage 2b means the cancer has grown beyond the womb and onto nearby organs that are lined with peritoneal tissue (the thin tissue which also lines the abdomen). These include the bladder and rectum.

Ovarian cancer at stage 2 is only found in a small number of people with the disease. This is because ovarian cancer can spread to the lining of the abdominal cavity (which is stage 3) at the same time as the pelvic organs. It can also spread to the abdominal cavity lining without spreading to the pelvic organs, skipping stage 2 entirely.



A diagram of the female reproductive system

A close-up photograph of two individuals sitting and holding hands. The person on the left is wearing a light blue denim shirt over a white top and light pink pants. The person on the right is wearing a light blue and white striped button-down shirt and light blue jeans. Their hands are clasped together in a supportive gesture. A teal-colored rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

Stage 2 ovarian
cancer is treated by
surgery and
chemotherapy.

Grading stage 2 ovarian cancer

Ovarian cancer is graded as well as staged. It is graded 1, 2 or 3 to show how active it is, and how quickly or slowly it may grow.

- Grade 1 (sometimes also called well differentiated cancer) means that when looked at under a microscope, the cells look similar to normal cells which means they are likely to grow slowly.
- Grade 2 (moderately differentiated) cells look more abnormal and are expected to be slightly faster growing.
- Grade 3 (poorly differentiated or undifferentiated) cells look very different from normal cells and are expected to grow more quickly.

How is stage 2 ovarian cancer treated?

Stage 2 ovarian cancer is treated by surgery and chemotherapy. Your surgeon will remove your ovaries, fallopian tubes, womb and the layer of fatty tissue that surrounds your abdominal organs (called the omentum). Some other biopsies such as omental and lymph nodes may be done.

The surgeon will also aim to remove any cancer growing on the other organs within the pelvis. You will need chemotherapy if you have been diagnosed with stage 2 cancer.

You will be offered a course of chemotherapy which usually starts two to six weeks after your operation. This will be a course of six treatments at three weekly intervals.

It is likely that your consultant will recommend the use of chemotherapy drugs which are usually carboplatin and sometimes paclitaxel (also called Taxol) will be added. Sometimes newer drugs may be offered – and your doctor will explain these to you.

You can find out more here:

<https://www.ovacome.org.uk/surgery-for-ovarian-cancer-booklet>

<https://www.ovacome.org.uk/chemotherapy-booklet>

We welcome your feedback on this booklet. Please email ovacome@ovacome.org.uk or call 0800 008 7054. If you would like to discuss anything about ovarian cancer, please phone our support line on 0800 008 7054 Monday to Friday between 10am and 5pm. You can also visit our website at www.ovacome.org.uk.

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Disclaimer

Ovacome booklets provide information and support. We make every effort to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information at the time of publication. The information we give is not a substitute for professional medical care. If you suspect you have cancer you should consult your doctor as quickly as possible.

Ovacome cannot accept any liability for any inaccuracy in linked sources.

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