

ovacome..
ovarian cancer

Signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer



Ovacome 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 describes the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer and discussing these with your GP.

Support line: 0800 008 7054

Office phone: 0207 299 6654

Website: www.ovacome.org.uk

Email: ovacome@ovacome.org.uk



Signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer

Ovarian cancer affects approximately 7,500 people each year in the UK.

It appears most often in those over 45 and after the menopause.

For most people there is no particular reason why the cancer occurs. However, a small number of ovarian cancers are caused by a gene change which runs in the family.

Ovarian cancer can be hard to diagnose because the symptoms can be similar to more common and less serious conditions. It is sometimes mistaken for irritable bowel syndrome although IBS rarely occurs for the first time in those aged over 50. A GP in an average size practice may see just one case of ovarian cancer every five years.

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

The most common symptoms of ovarian cancer are:

- Persistent bloating of the abdomen.
- Difficulty eating and feeling full quickly.
- Persistent abdominal and pelvic pain.
- Changes in urination or bowel habit.

Other symptoms can include:

- Tiredness or fatigue.
- Unusual vaginal bleeding or discharge.
- Unintentional weight loss or gain.

You can use the Ovacom symptom diary at www.ovacome.org.uk/symptoms-tracker to keep a record to show your doctor.

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. This is one of a series of information booklets produced by Ovacome. You can see them here: ovacome.org.uk/information.

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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.

Version 2.4 | Date last updated March 2024 | Date for review May 2026



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