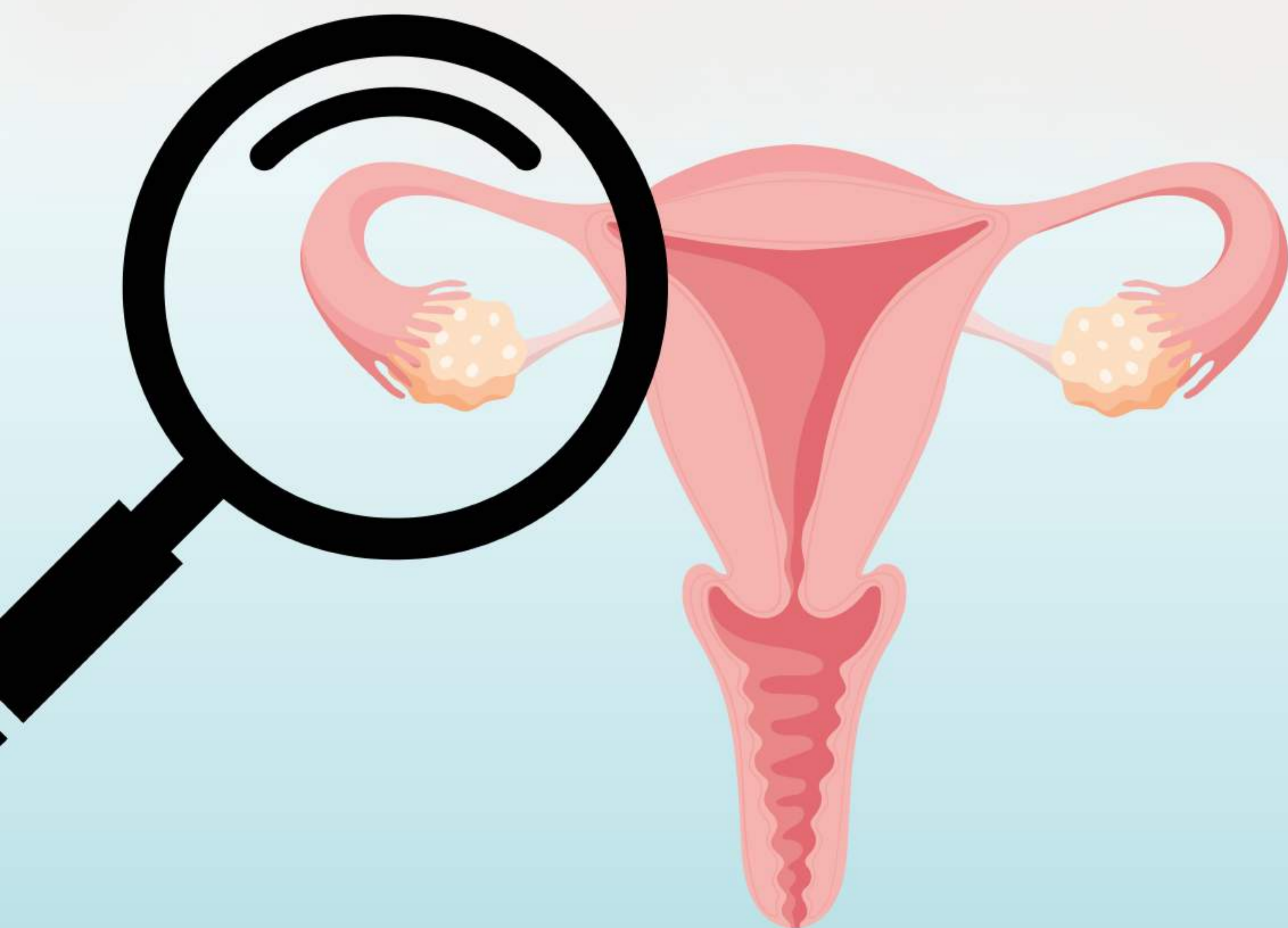


About ovarian cancer

EasyRead Information





Every year about 7,500 people get ovarian cancer.

In the UK one in 56 females get ovarian cancer.



The signs of ovarian cancer can be like less serious illnesses.

Signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer



Bloating in your tummy that does not come and go.

A bloated tummy can be swollen or bigger than normal.



Feeling full quickly when you eat or finding it hard to eat.



Pain around your tummy that you feel most days.



You need to pee more often.

Changes to your poo.



It is important to be checked by your doctor.

Risks of ovarian cancer

You are at risk of developing ovarian cancer if:



You were born with **ovaries**.

Ovaries make eggs and hormones.



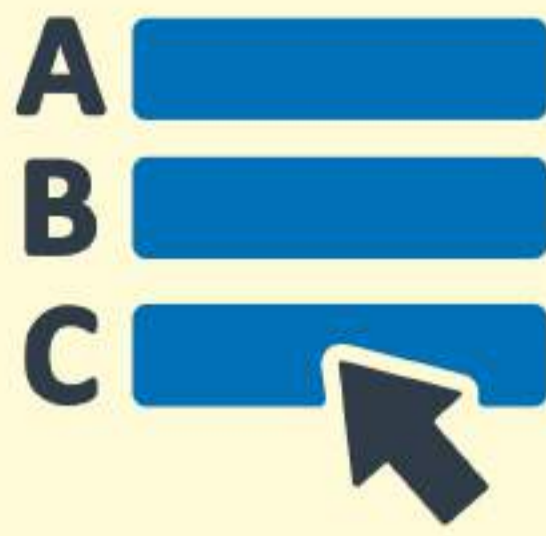
You are over 50.



You have never had children.



Ovarian cancer is in your family.

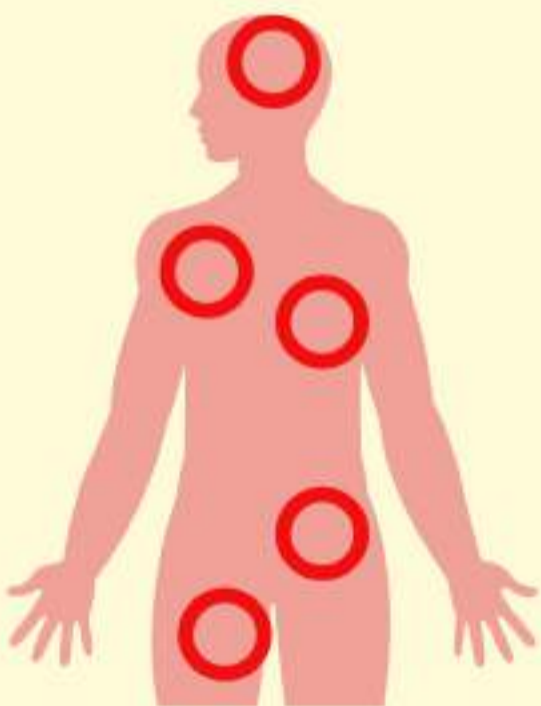


There are different types of ovarian cancer.



Most people get a type called **epithelial** ovarian cancer.

Epithelial cells cover organs inside your body, including the ovaries.



Cancer can spread in your body.

You will be told if your cancer has spread. This is called staging.

Stages of ovarian cancer



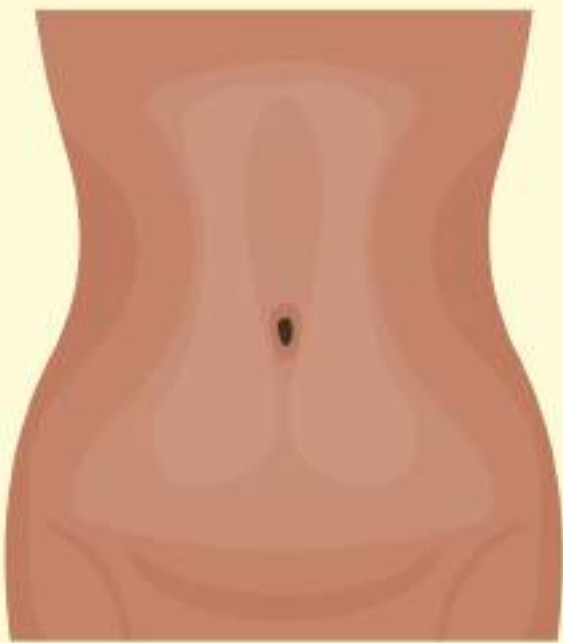
Stage one:

This is when it is in one or both ovaries.



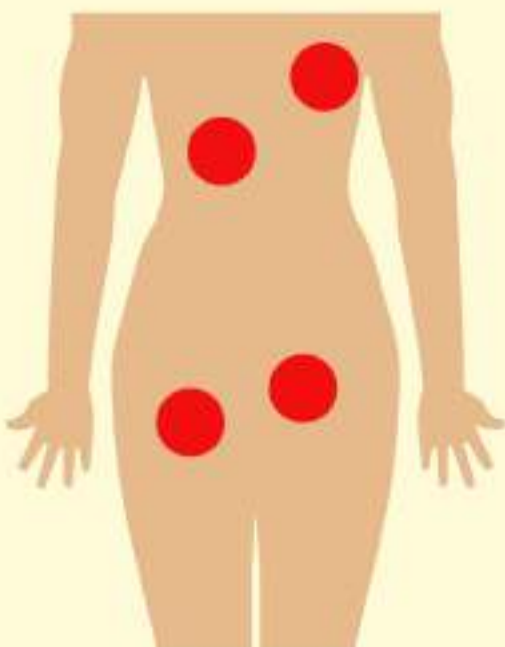
Stage two:

It is in your pelvis, this is the area between your hips.



Stage three:

It is in your abdomen, the part of your body between your chest and your pelvis.



Stage 4:

It has spread to other parts of your body such as your lungs.

Treatment for ovarian cancer

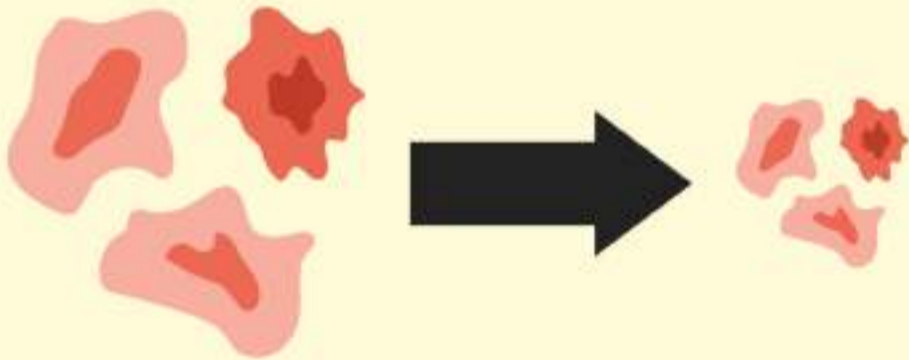


If you have ovarian cancer, you may need an operation.



You may need **chemotherapy** as well.

Chemotherapy is drugs that can kill cancer.



You may have chemotherapy before the operation.

This is to shrink the cancer so it is easier to get out.



The surgeon will do an operation to see if the cancer has spread.

They will take samples that will show if you have ovarian cancer or not.



The operation will take out as much of the cancer as possible.



Then you may need **chemotherapy** to get rid of any cancer left.

Chemotherapy is treatment that uses medicine to kill cancer cells.

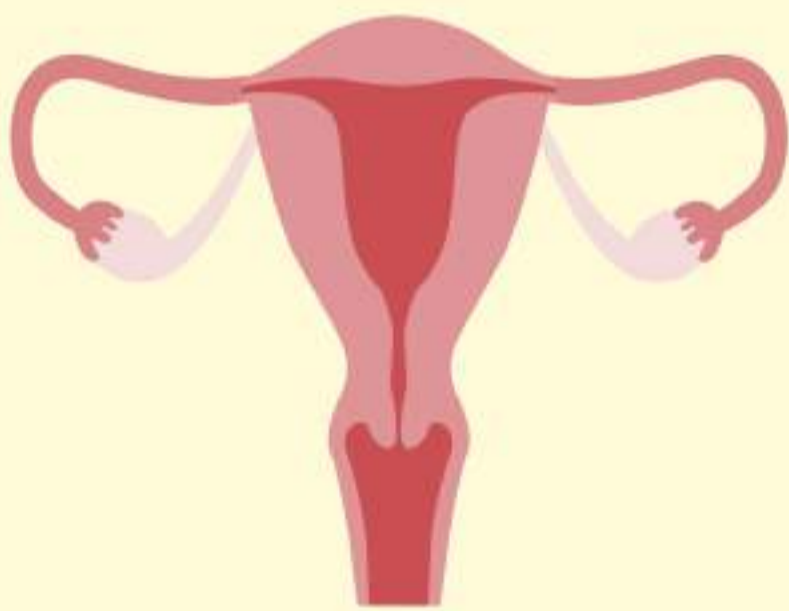
Fertility



Ovarian cancer operations usually take out your ovaries and your womb.



This means you will not be able to get pregnant.



Sometimes one ovary and the womb can be left.

This is when the cancer is very small.



If you want to have children tell your doctors.



Ask them if an ovary and the womb can be left.

Chemotherapy



Chemotherapy drugs can kill cancer.

You will have chemotherapy in a hospital outpatient clinic that you go to from your home.



It is given using a needle into your arm or chest.



You may have side effects from chemotherapy.

Chemotherapy side effects



Sickness



Tiredness



Getting more illnesses



Hair falling out



Changes to your poo



Fingers and toes may lose feeling, feel different or painful.



Tell your nurse if these happen to you. There are medicines that can help.



When you have finished chemotherapy you may get medicine to take at home.

This is called **targeted therapy**.

Targeted therapy is drugs that can stop the cancer spreading again.



You may get follow-up checks in hospital.

Ovarian cancer coming back



Sometimes ovarian cancer comes back.

Then you will need more treatment.



Doctors will aim to control the cancer so that you have a good quality of life.

What is Ovacome?



Ovacome is a charity that helps people with ovarian cancer and their friends and families.



Contact Ovacome if you want to talk to someone about ovarian cancer.

It is **free** to call Ovacome. You do not need an appointment.



Call us on the phone:
0800 008 7054



Send us an email:
support@ovacome.org.uk



Visit our website:
www.ovacome.org.uk

ovacome..

ovarian cancer