

MORE
ABOUT

Ovarian Cancer



OVARIAN CANCER IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND:

- Our rates are among the highest in the world.
- Ovarian cancer is the eighth most common cancer in New Zealand women (about 300 new cases each year).
- Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer death in New Zealand women (about 208 deaths per year).

WHAT ARE THE OVARIES?

The ovaries are found only in women. They produce the female hormones oestrogen and progesterone. They also produce eggs which, when fertilised with sperm, result in pregnancy. Ovarian cancer is a malignant (cancerous) growth in one or both ovaries.

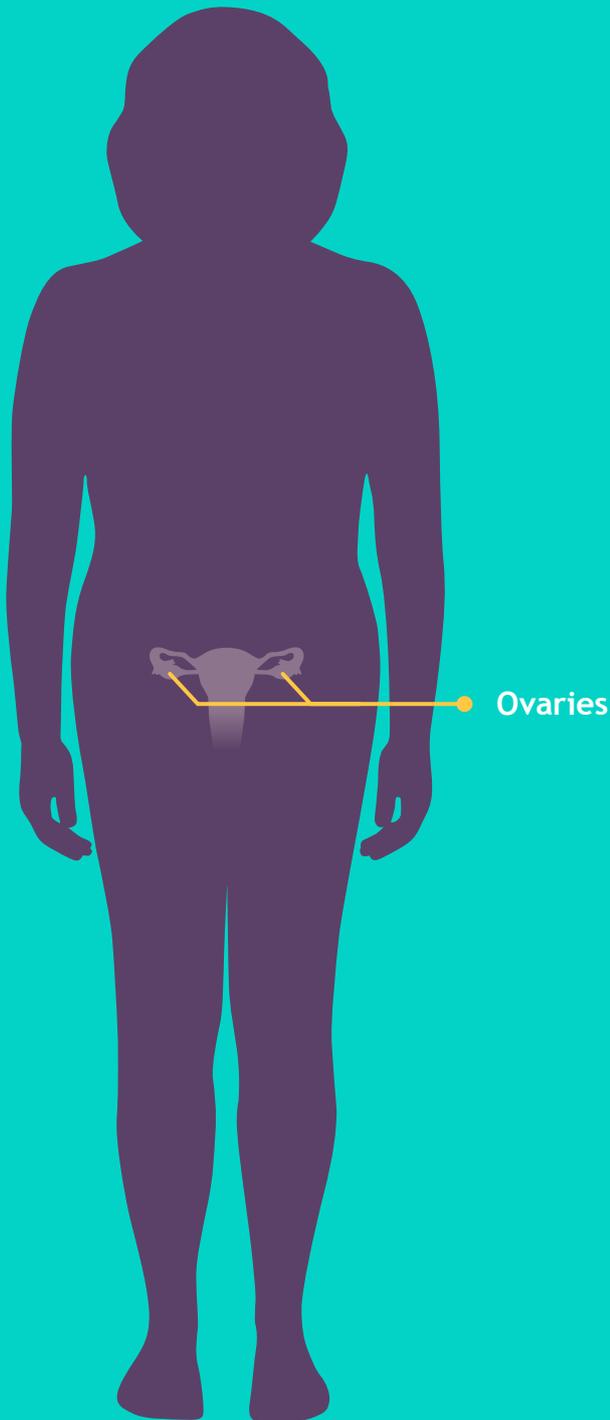
Risk factors for ovarian cancer include:

- Getting older – most women diagnosed with ovarian cancer are over 50 years of age.
- Family history – tell your doctor if anyone in your family has had ovarian cancer, or breast or bowel cancer, on either your mother's or father's side.

SCREENING

Cervical smear tests will not detect ovarian cancer.

There is no proven method of screening for ovarian cancer in the general low-risk population.



SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Bloating tummy
- Always feeling full
- Needing to wee more
- Lower tummy or back pain

You may also notice fatigue (feeling very tired), changes in bowel habit (constipation or diarrhoea) and/or weight loss or weight gain.

If you have any of these signs for three weeks or more talk to your doctor. If they don't go away, go back to your doctor or ask for a second opinion from another doctor.

TREATMENT

Treatment for ovarian cancer may include surgery and chemotherapy.

This resource has been produced with the support of the Bolland family in loving memory of Sian.

For more information:

www.cancernz.org.nz

Cancer Information Helpline
0800 CANCER | 0800 226 237
Kōrero mai

Cancer Society of New Zealand, Wellington Division Inc. 2019



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Te Kāhui Matepukupuku
o Aotearoa