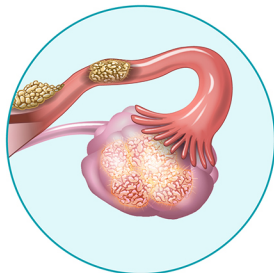


## Why is ovarian cancer challenging to diagnose?

Ovarian cancer is often not diagnosed until **after** it's begun to spread beyond the ovary because:

- When the cancer is in its early stages, you may not notice any symptoms
- Other conditions that are not cancer can cause the same symptoms



**!** There is **NO** screening test to detect ovarian cancer



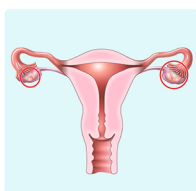
The Pap test can screen for cervical cancer but not ovarian cancer



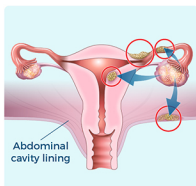
A pelvic exam can check for enlarged ovaries or signs of fluid in the abdomen, but it can't screen for most early ovarian tumors

## Staging ovarian cancer

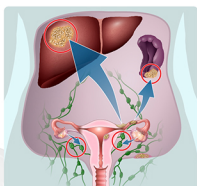
**Stage 1 to 4** – Staging describes the extent of cancer in the body. Like most cancers, ovarian cancer has 4 main stages:



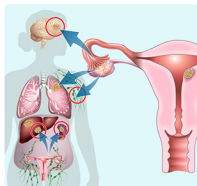
**Stage 1:**  
Cancer is in one or both ovaries and may also be on the outer surface of the ovaries or in fluids in the abdomen



**Stage 2:**  
Cancer has spread to the fallopian tubes or other organs in the pelvis



**Stage 3:**  
Cancer has spread to the lymph nodes; to other places in the abdomen such as the peritoneum; or to the outer surface of the spleen or liver



**Stage 4:**  
Cancer has spread to lymph nodes outside the abdomen or to inside the lungs, spleen, liver, or brain

## If ovarian cancer is suspected, your doctor will:



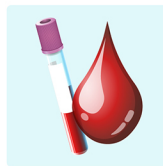
Perform a **pelvic exam**



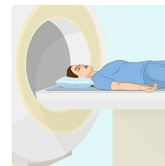
Ask about your **medical history** and family history of cancer



Ask about **symptoms** and when they started



Order **blood tests**



Order **imaging tests** (CT, PET, MRI)



## Confirming the diagnosis

**A biopsy is the only way for sure to diagnose ovarian cancer.**

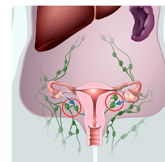
This involves removing tissue and looking at it under a microscope. A biopsy may be done before surgery to get a diagnosis, or during surgery when removing a mass.

## TNM system

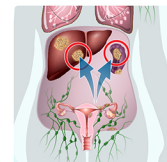
The TNM system provides more information about the cancer by answering three questions:



**T:** How large is the tumor?



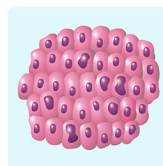
**N:** Has the tumor spread to nearby lymph nodes?



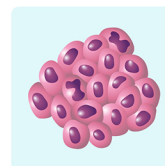
**M:** Has the tumor spread (metastasized) to other organs in the body?

## Grading ovarian cancer

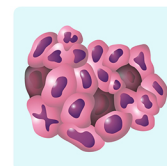
Grading describes how the cancer cells look under a microscope and how fast they are growing:



**Low Grade**



**Moderate Grade**



**High Grade**

Developed by the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition and Mechanisms in Medicine Inc.



For more information about ovarian cancer, visit:

**YouAndOvarianCancer.com**

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