

Ovarian Cancer Facts

- This year, 28,000 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer.
- There is no reliable screening method for detecting ovarian cancer.
- A Pap smear is NOT a test for ovarian cancer. A Pap smear detects cervical cancer.
- Currently, most women are diagnosed with an advanced stage of the disease.
- If ovarian cancer is detected early, it is a manageable disease with a much higher survival rate.
- Family medical history can provide essential clues to a predisposition to ovarian and other female cancers.
- The risk of ovarian cancer increases with age, especially around the time of menopause.
- Symptoms are subtle, persistent and usually increase over time.

Ovarian Cancer Symptoms

Ovarian cancer usually presents with a constellation of symptoms including:

- Abdominal pressure, bloating or discomfort, feeling “full.”
- Constipation, diarrhea/changes in bowel function
- Frequent urination/changes in bladder patterns
- Nausea, indigestion and/or gas
- Abnormal bleeding
- Shortness of breath
- Unusual fatigue/backaches
- Unexpected weight gain, increased abdominal circumference.
- Unexpected weight loss

Symptoms may be experienced by women at some point in their lives, and usually do not indicate ovarian cancer. However, if symptoms persist for three weeks or more with no diagnosable cause, contact your doctor and ask about ovarian cancer.

For more information about ovarian cancer, OROC and OROC events, visit

www.oroc.org