

# September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month



Cancer is a disease in which cells in the body grow out of control. Cancer is often named for the part of the body where it starts, even if it spreads to other body parts later. Women have two ovaries that are located in the pelvis, one on each side of the uterus. The ovaries make female hormones and produce eggs. According to the U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group, ovarian cancer is the eighth most common cancer among women in the U.S. and the fifth leading cause of cancer death. This type of cancer causes more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system. The single greatest risk factor is having a family history of the disease. Treatment is most effective when ovarian cancer is found and treated early.

Women are encouraged to know their family history, pay attention to their body, and know what is normal for them. Women with mutations in the BRCA 1 or BRCA 2 gene have a higher risk of getting breast and ovarian cancers, so genetic testing is recommended for women whose personal or family history shows they may have these mutations. Genetic testing is not recommended for women at average risk because the risks of treatment outweigh the benefits. There are about 831 new cases of ovarian cancer among Ohio women each year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed a campaign to raise women's and health care providers' awareness and knowledge about the five main types of cancer that affect a woman's reproductive organs.

## Resources

You should learn more about ovarian cancer because *Inside Knowledge Helps Save Lives!*

- **Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System:**  
[http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/svio/ci\\_surv/reporting1.aspx](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/svio/ci_surv/reporting1.aspx)
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: 1-800-CDC-INFO or [www.cdc.gov/cancer](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer)**  
**Inside Knowledge Campaign <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/knowledge/>**