

ovarian cancer

causes more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system.

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tipsheet

Promising Ovarian Cancer Vaccine

Researchers at Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI) are working to develop a promising vaccine to unleash the power of the immune system against ovarian cancer. Kunle Odunsi, MD, PhD, Department of Gynecologic Oncology, and colleagues are combining efforts to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of a vaccine treatment which they hope will be tested in large-scale clinical studies.

Early vaccine studies found that patients who had previously been treated for ovarian cancer did respond to the vaccine, and some continued to respond up to 12 months after immunization, suggesting a long-lasting effect.

Ovarian Cancer: The Facts

Ovarian cancer, the most serious of the gynecologic cancers, accounts for about three percent of all cancers among women and ranks second among gynecologic cases.

The specific cause(s) of ovarian cancer is/are unknown. Family history of ovarian cancer is the only factor known to be associated with a significant increase in ovarian cancer. For women who have two or more close relatives with ovarian cancer, their risk of developing the disease could be as high as seven percent, compared to 1.8% for women without the family link.

Diet, exercise and lifestyle choices play a significant role in the prevention of cancer.

Know the Symptoms

Ovarian cancer is difficult to detect, especially in its early stages. In fact, only about 10% of ovarian cancers are found in the early stages. Any of these symptoms which persist for two weeks should be evaluated by a physician.

- Nausea, indigestion, gas, constipation, or diarrhea
- Pelvic and/or abdominal pain or discomfort
- Pelvic and/or abdominal bloating or swelling
- Fatigue
- Abnormal or post-menopausal bleeding
- Pain during intercourse



DID YOU KNOW..?

→ Roswell Park is pioneering new treatments for ovarian cancer, including a cancer vaccine.

→ All members of the Department of Gynecology at Roswell Park have specialized training in gynecologic cancers.

Gynecologic cancers should be treated by a gynecologic oncologist.



These professionals have an additional three to four years of specialized training in treating gynecologic cancers.

Treatment

Surgery to remove the tumor is the primary treatment for ovarian cancer. This enables the physician to make a definitive diagnosis, determine the extent of disease (stage), and plan additional treatment with chemotherapy. Chemotherapy is often recommended after surgery to destroy any remaining cancer cells.

The Gilda Radner Familial Ovarian Cancer Registry

The Gilda Radner Familial Ovarian Cancer Registry, located at Roswell Park, celebrates its 29th anniversary this year, under the direction of **Shashikant Lele, MD**, Chair of Department of Gynecologic Oncology at RPCI.



The Registry is a national computer tracking system that stores data for women with two or more close relatives who have been diagnosed with ovarian cancer. The Gilda Radner Familial Ovarian Line offers education and information to women at high risk of ovarian cancer because of a family history.

For more information, call The Gilda Radner Familial Ovarian Line at

1-800-OVARIAN
(1-800-682-7426)

weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm EST.

Every 7 minutes a woman is diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer.

The average age for developing ovarian cancer is **61** years old.

Team Roswell Park

The Gynecologic Center at Roswell Park is staffed by a team of specialists with expertise in the care and treatment of all cancers of the reproductive system from diagnosis through follow-up.

Members of the team are:



Shashikant Lele, MD
Chair of Gynecologic Oncology



Adekunle Odunsi, MD, PhD
Department of Gynecologic Oncology



Nefertiti duPont, MD
Department of Gynecologic Oncology



Wainwright Jaggernauth, MD
Department of Radiation Medicine



Christine Aiduk, MS, NP
Nurse Practitioner



Karen Larkin, MS, FNP
Nurse Practitioner

Ovarian cancer is most common in women who have already gone through menopause.