

GYNAECOLOGY & OBSTETRICS UPDATE

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**Web Sites
Links for
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Sussex Cancer Network Screening for Ovarian Cancer

This is the official advice from the Sussex Cancer Network (Our Eastbourne Cancer Unit is a member of this Network). **For more details please read Issue "14" of the "Update"**

Most epithelial ovarian cancer is sporadic with familial patterns accounting for only 5 – 10% of all malignancies. Unfortunately, there is no evidence to date from randomised controlled trials to support the use of screening techniques such as ultrasound and CA125 levels for ovarian cancer.

Screening for ovarian cancer should not be routinely offered in asymptomatic women.

Asymptomatic women wishing to partake in population screening studies can only do so by invitation from trial centres. There is currently no centre in Sussex involved in these studies. For information of the general population screening studies visit: www.ukctocs.org.uk

Many women will request screening for ovarian cancer on the basis of their family history. Some useful figures can be utilised to reassure many women.

NUMBER OF FIRST DEGREE RELATIVES WITH OVARIAN CANCER	LIFE TIME RISK OF DEVELOPING OVARIAN CANCER
0	1 %
1	5 %
2	15 %
> 2	? 50 %

Since ovarian screening is of unproven benefit and has a high false positive rate (resulting in unnecessary intervention in many women), it is not offered to women with only one affected first-degree relative. Women at "higher risk" may be eligible for screening and genetic testing and if they fall into one of the following groups, may be referred to the UK Familial Ovarian Cancer Screening Study (UKFOCSS). Women at "higher risk" are those with:

1. **TWO** or more first-degree relatives (a parent, sibling or child) with ovarian cancer.
2. One first-degree relative with ovarian cancer and one first-degree relative with breast cancer diagnosed under 50 years of age.
3. One ovarian cancer and two breast cancers diagnosed under 60 years in first-degree relatives.
4. Known BRCA-1 or BRCA-2 mutations in the family **or**
5. 3 colorectal cancers, at least one diagnosed under 50 years of age, and one ovarian cancer, all first-degree relatives of each other.

UKFOCSS Contact details:

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