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Health Matters: Ovarian Cancer

Triston Sanders - Medical Anchor

It is estimated that 14,000 women in America will die from ovarian cancer this year. With early detection, this disease doesn't have to be fatal. This Health Matters takes a look at how early detection is key to preventing this disease from being deadly.

Most cases of ovarian cancer aren't diagnosed until it is too late. Oncologist Eric Rost says if you have concerns about ovarian cancer, talk to your doctor right away.

"Unfortunately the early signs of ovarian cancer are very hard to pick up," he says.

With ovarian cancer, there is one risk factor that is extremely important for everyone to know about.

"If you know that you've had family members with ovarian cancer your doctors are going to be much more careful in evaluating to see whether or not you're developing this disease."

Early detection is the key to saving lives. It's important to know both the symptoms and risk factors for ovarian cancer.

"The early symptoms are very vague; abdominal boating, feelings of fullness, feeling of fatigue and just tired. Usually when there is a clean cut example of the disease, it's already progressed to further than we'd like."

Although no absolute test for ovarian cancer exists, there are new breakthroughs in medical technology to allow your doctor to be able to screen you for this disease.

"Newest methods for ovarian cancer detection are actually blood tests. We also have new forms of ultrasounds, as well as MRI and CT scan."

Discuss the screening tests with your doctor if you have a family history of ovarian cancer or you think you may have symptoms of this disease. Only 25 percent of ovarian cancer cases in the U.S. are diagnosed in the beginning stages.

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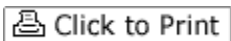
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