

Ovarian Cancer Compared to other Women's Cancers

About these facts

Although ovarian cancer is less common than breast cancer, the low five-year survival rate underscores its deadliness. Proven tools and methods exist for early detection of breast and cervical cancers. Through scientific advancements, advocacy and education, the breast and cervical cancer communities have dramatically increased the detection of these cancers in their most treatable stages and decreased mortality rates.

This is the type of progress the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance wants to bring about for ovarian cancer.

	Ovarian Cancer	Breast Cancer	Cervical Cancer
Lifetime Risk	1 in 71 women will be diagnosed	1 in 8 women will be diagnosed	1 in 145 women will be diagnosed
Overall 5-Year Survival Rate	46% of women with this cancer are alive 5 years after they are diagnosed	89% of women with this cancer are alive 5 years after they are diagnosed	71% of women with this cancer are alive 5 years after they are diagnosed
Trends in U.S. Cancer Incidence 1997 to 2006 (average annual percent change)	Decreased 1.5%	Decreased 1.2%	Decreased 3.5%
Trends in U.S. Cancer Mortality 1997 to 2006 (average annual percent change)	Decreased 0.4%	Decreased 2.0%	Decreased 2.8%
Screening or Early Detection Tools	None	Mammography, ultrasound	Pap test, HPV test
Prevention Methods	None	Tamoxifen citrate is FDA-approved to reduce the recurrence of breast cancer.	Vaccine for human papilloma virus (HPV) was approved in 2006 and prevents close to 70% of all cervical cancers.

Sources

American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2009. Atlanta: American Cancer Society, 2009.

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