Ovarian cancer is a form of cancer that occurs due to the abnormal and uncontrolled growth of cells from the ovaries, fallopian tubes or peritoneum.

Ovarian cancer can start from three common cell types: epithelium, germ cells and stromal cells. The most common type of ovarian cancer is epithelial, which accounts for 90% of all cases of ovarian cancer.

Epithelial Ovarian Cancer (EOC)
Cancer can arise on the surface layers of the ovaries, fallopian tubes or peritoneum.

Causes
It's not clear what causes ovarian cancer, but risk factors include:
- Family history of ovarian or breast cancer
- Deleterious gene mutations including the BRCA gene
- Previously having endometriosis
- Increasing age
- Infertility
- Smoking
- Lynch syndrome (genetic disorder)

Many women with early ovarian cancer have no signs or symptoms and when present, they are similar to other, more common and benign conditions. This can make for a challenging and late diagnosis.

Some early symptoms are:
- Abdominal pain, swelling or bloating
- Changes in bowel movements
- Pelvic and lower back pain
- Fatigue
- Frequent or urgent need to urinate

To help diagnose ovarian cancer, exams and tests may be used, such as:
- Biopsy
- Physical evaluation and pelvic exam
- Ultrasound and other imaging tests
- Blood tests

In general, treatment for ovarian cancer may include a combination of the following:
- Surgery
- Targeted therapy
- Chemotherapy