Objectives

- Students should be able to define Ovarian Cancer
- Students should be able to list three symptoms
- Students should be able to list three risk factors
- Students should be able to identify the treatment for Ovarian Cancer
**Definition**

- **Ovarian Cancer** is when ovarian cells grow uncontrollably creating tumors.
- An ovary is a small almond size organ in a woman's body.
- It produces eggs and the hormones estrogen and progesterone.
Cause

Still not sure of exact cause

Some hypotheses are:
- Repairing the ovary wall where the egg has ruptured through
- Change of hormones before and during ovulation

Three types of tumor:
- Epithelial tumor
  - 85%-90%
  - Tumor is on the outer covering of the ovary
  - Usually in post menopausal women
- Germ cell tumors
  - Tumors in the egg producing cells
  - Usually in younger women
- Stromal tumors
  - Tumors in the estrogen and progesterone producing cells of the ovaries
Risk factors

- **Inherited gene mutations**: inheriting the mutation of the breast cancer I gene or breast cancer II gene.
- **Family history**: if more than one person in your family had ovarian cancer you are at high risk.
- **Age**: after menopause.
- **Child bearing status**: having at least one pregnancy lowers the risk.
- **Infertility**: having trouble conceiving can be a risk.
- **Ovarian cysts**: having ovarian cysts. Greater risk when they are post menopausal ovarian cysts.
- **Hormone replacement therapy**: Slight increased risk for women taking estrogen after menopause.
- **Obesity in early adulthood**.
Symptoms

- Similar symptoms of digestive and bladder disorders this is why it is hard to diagnose ovarian cancer
- Abdominal pressure
- Urinary urgency
- Pelvic discomfort
- Persistent indigestion, gas or nausea
- Unexplained changes in bowel habits
- Changes in bladder habits
- Unexpected weight loss or gain
- Loss in appetite
- Lower back pain
- Persistent lack of energy
- Pain during intercourse
Treatment

- Usually a combination of surgery and chemotherapy
- Usually removal of both ovaries, fallopian tubes and uterus
- Also removes cancer from abdomen
**Prevention**

- **Oral contraceptive**: use of three years or more reduces the risk by 30%-50%
- **Pregnancy and breast feeding**: Having at least one child lowers your risk
- **Tubal ligation or hysterectomy**
- **Women that are at high risk can have their ovaries removed** (this also reduces the risk for breast cancer)
Statistics

- 5th highest death caused by cancer in women
- About 20,000 women will develop ovarian cancer this year in the U.S.
- 15,000 will die from Ovarian Cancer
Review

Symptoms of ovarian cancer are easily identified.  T  F

The older you are the less chance you have of getting ovarian cancer.  T  F

Being pregnant at least __________ time(s) will help lower the risk of ovarian cancer.

Ovarian cancer is the __________ leading cause of death in women.

The cause for ovarian cancer is ______________________________.