

# Data briefing on ovarian cancer

December 2018



TARGET  
OVARIAN  
CANCER

Target Ovarian Cancer is the UK's leading ovarian cancer charity. We work to improve early diagnosis, fund life-saving research and provide much-needed support to women with ovarian cancer.

We are the authority on ovarian cancer. We work with women, family members and health professionals to ensure we target the areas that matter most for those living and working with ovarian cancer.

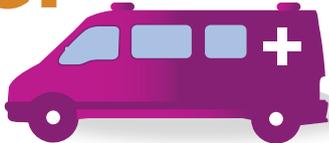
[targetovariancancer.org.uk](http://targetovariancancer.org.uk)

**Target Ovarian Cancer has analysed new government data on ovarian cancer which includes routes to diagnosis, different types of tumour and treatment. This information helps measure the impact of work such as our GP education programme and identify areas where more needs to be done, for example, investing in research into less common types of ovarian cancer or campaigning for improved access to treatment.**

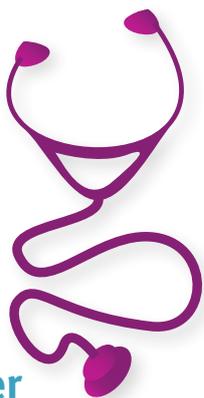
## What the data shows

### Emergency presentation

27 per cent of women with ovarian cancer are diagnosed through an emergency presentation (for example in Accident and Emergency). This can mean that the cancer is diagnosed late and reduce the number of treatment options available. Just over 10 years ago, 31 per cent of women with ovarian cancer were diagnosed through an emergency presentation. Today's figure is still too high, but shows that our work to raise awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer and GP training is paying off.

Over  
a   
quarter  
of women with ovarian  
cancer are diagnosed  
in A&E

**58%**  
of women  
with ovarian  
cancer are  
diagnosed after  
visiting their GP



### GP referrals

More women than ever are being diagnosed following a referral from their GP, with the data showing 58 per cent of women diagnosed through this route, compared to 47 per cent just over a decade ago. If a woman visits her GP with symptoms that could be ovarian cancer she should either be sent for diagnostic tests, or be referred straight to hospital if the GP is really worried. We need to see all women diagnosed through a GP referral, rather than Accident and Emergency, as it means women are diagnosed promptly and can start treatment sooner.

## Age at diagnosis

Approximately 17 per cent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer are under 50. While ovarian cancer is more common in older women, it is important to be aware that it can happen at any age and that all women know the symptoms to look out for. Younger women are often diagnosed with slightly different types of tumour and treatment can present additional challenges such as the impact on fertility and early onset menopause.

**One  
in  
six**  
women  
diagnosed  
with ovarian cancer is under 50



**One  
in  
five**

women diagnosed  
with ovarian cancer  
is too sick for treatment



## No treatment

20 per cent of women receive no treatment at all. This can be for a number of reasons, the main being that women are too unwell at the point they are diagnosed to start treatment. It is why it is so important we work to get women diagnosed swiftly; even a few weeks can make a difference.

## Less common tumours

Approximately 13 per cent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer have a less common tumour type, for example, sex-cord stromal or germ cell ovarian cancer.

This is the first time that data has been published showing how many women are diagnosed with these less common tumour types. This is important as it helps ensure the right services and support are in place and demonstrates where more investment in research is needed.

**One  
in  
ten**

women are diagnosed  
with a less common  
tumour type



## The data

Target Ovarian Cancer worked with Public Health England's National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service who provided the data on which the above analysis is based. This is part of the 'Get Data Out' project aimed at making more data on less common cancers, such as ovarian cancer, publicly available. You can find the full data release at:  
<http://cancerdata.nhs.uk/standardoutput>

It's time to

# TAKE OVAR

**Raise awareness. Fund research. Save lives.**

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