



Inside Knowledge - Ovarian Cancer

What are the signs and symptoms of Ovarian Cancer? Ovarian cancer often causes signs and symptoms. See your Doctor if you have any of these signs every day for two weeks or longer and they are not normal for you, especially if they get worse: Pain in the pelvic or abdominal area (the area below your stomach, and in between your hip bones). Back pain, being tired all the time, bloating, which is when the area below your stomach swells or feels full. A change in you bathroom habits, such as having to pass urine very badly or very often. An upset stomach or heartburn. Discharge from your vagina that is not normal for you.

Also see your doctor if you have any bleeding from your vagina that is not normal for you, particularly if you are past menopause. These symptoms may be caused by something other than cancer, but the only way to know is to see your doctor. Treatment is most effective when ovarian cancer is found and treated early. Are there tests that can find ovarian cancer early? Ask your doctor if you should have a test, such as a rectovaginal pelvic exam, a tranvaginal ultrasound or a CA-125 blood test if: You have any unexplained signs or symptoms of ovarian cancer. These tests sometimes help find or rule out ovarian cancer. You have had breast, uterine, or colorectal cancer; or a close relative has had ovarian cancer.

If your doctor says you have ovarian cancer, ask to be referred to a gynecologic oncologist. This doctor will work with you to create a treatment plan.

Dedicated to my Sister, Beverly Schaan, who died of Ovarian Cancer on 4/30/2009

I miss you and now I cry.

Love,

Mary Tobias, (sister) and Beverly's family in Minot



*In Loving Memory
Of
Beverly Ann Schaan
1940-2009*