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For Immediate Release

OVARIAN CANCER FACT SHEET

- Ovarian cancer ranks fifth in cancer deaths among women, and is the most deadly cancer of the female reproductive system
- About 80 percent of these cancers are not diagnosed in their early stages, leading to a reduced chance of survival*
- Though the disease is often called the “silent killer,” because it had, until recently, no symptoms, the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation in June released the first national consensus on ovarian cancer symptoms. They include:
 - bloating,
 - pelvic or abdominal pain,
 - difficulty eating or feeling full quickly,
 - and some urinary symptoms.
- An estimated more than 22,000 women will be told they have ovarian cancer this year and more than 15,000 will die from ovarian cancer**
- There are three common ovarian tumors that can give rise to ovarian cancer, according to the American Cancer Society and the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition:
 - **Common Epithelial Tumors**, which develop from the cells covering the outer surface of the ovary. Most of these tumors are benign, but those that are malignant are called carcinomas and are the most common and dangerous of all types of ovarian cancer. About 70 percent of cases of epithelial ovarian cancer are not diagnosed until a late stage, and carcinomas account for 85 to 90 percent of all ovarian cancers
 - **Germ Cell Tumors**, which develop from cells that produce eggs. Most are benign, and 90 percent of patients with the malignant form of this cancer can be cured with their fertility preserved
 - **Stromal Tumors**, which develop from connective tissue that hold the ovary together and produce the female hormones estrogen and progesterone. These tumors are rare and are often considered a low-grade form of cancer

(more)

T H E P A S S I O N T O L E A D

The Women's Cancer Centers of Atlantic Health

The Women's Cancer Centers at Morristown Memorial Hospital and Overlook Hospital in Summit are part of Atlantic Health, www.atlantichealth.org. The Women's Cancer Centers provide a wide range of services to help women meet the physical and emotional challenges associated with vaginal, uterine, ovarian, cervical and other gynecological cancers. Treatments may include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, hormone therapy, or any combination of these treatments. The primary goal of the Women's Cancer Centers is to help women manage their disease and support them through the process. The Centers not only offer the most advanced diagnostic technologies and treatments, but services in Integrative Medicine, nutrition, education and other support services are also available. In addition, the Women's Cancer Centers offer ovarian cancer genetics screening, early detection program for cervical cancer, and minimally invasive surgery for adnexal masses and gynecologic cancer. For more information, call 973-971-5900 at Morristown Memorial Hospital and 908-522-5262 at Overlook Hospital.

*Gynecological Cancer Foundation

**American Cancer Society

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