



LEEUVENHOEK
HEALTH SCREENING

Ovarian Cancer Screening

Ovarian cancer is often detected at an advanced stage, frequently resulting in poor prognosis and poor survival rate. Early detection is key to improve prognosis and survival.

Package specially
designed to evaluate
risk of ovarian cancer

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Ovarian cancer is a common malignancy of the female reproductive system.

Approximately 88% of ovarian cancer cases present in women 45 years of age and older.

In Ireland, it represents the fourth most common cancer in women with an incidence rate 24% above the EU average.

Symptoms

Although many believe that ovarian cancer is silent, there are symptoms to be aware of, such as:

- *persisting bloating*
- *eating less and feeling full quickly*
- *persistent abdominal pain and*
- *the need to urinate more frequently on 12 or more days in any given month*

In addition to symptoms, tumour markers for ovarian cancer can be tested. The combination of tumour markers CA125 and HE4 is an important indicator in the diagnosis of ovarian cancer. However, not all women with ovarian cancer will have these markers altered and vice-versa, so they can be used to evaluate risk only.

Please note that CA125, HE4 and ROMA must be interpreted in conjunction with an independent clinical and radiological assessment. The test is not intended as a screening or stand-alone diagnostic assay.

Find out more

Visit www.leeuwenhoek.ie for more info or to book an appointment. Questions? send an e-mail or give us a ring. Also feel free to drop in and we'll gladly answer any question you may have.

64 Upper O'Connell St, Ennis, Co. Clare
info@leeuwenhoek.ie, 065 6868 494, (text) 086 323 1712

Tests (on blood)

CA125 Antigen - sometimes released from ovarian cancer cells in blood. Testing for this antigen is widely used to detect disease, recurrence and response to therapy in women with the most common subtype of ovarian cancer. About 85% of women with advanced ovarian cancer have elevated levels of CA125. However, CA125 sensitivity is poor in the early stages of the disease. Also, levels can be high in women with other benign conditions. Due to this lack of sensitivity and specificity, CA125 on it's own is not recommended for screening of asymptomatic women.

HE4 (Human epididymal protein 4) - a protein highly expressed in women with ovarian cancer and some other cancers. Normal ovarian tissue produces small levels and it is raised in over half of women with ovarian cancer without elevated CA125 levels. HE4 complements CA125 giving improved sensitivity.

Risk of Ovarian Malignancy Algorithm (ROMA) - a mathematical formula using the concentration of CA125 and HE4 and the woman's menopausal status as inputs. ROMA aids in assessing whether a pre- or post-menopausal woman who presents with an ovarian adnexal mass is at low or high risk for the malignant disease on surgery.

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