GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER

Queensland¹,²

- Gynaecological cancer refers to all cancers of the female reproductive tract (cancers of the cervix, ovaries, uterus, vagina and vulva).
- 1,085 Queensland women were diagnosed with gynaecological cancer in 2014 (the most recent figures available).
- On average, women diagnosed with gynaecological cancer were 71 percent as likely to live for another five years compared to the general population (ranges from 48 per cent for ovarian cancer to almost 84 per cent for uterine cancer).
- Uterine cancer is the most commonly occurring gynaecological cancer.
- Ovarian cancer is the leading cause of death from a gynaecological cancer.
- Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable of all cancers.
- Vaginal cancer is one of the rarest cancers in the human body.

Gynaecological cancer in Queensland, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Incidence</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uterus</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovary</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cervix</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulva</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other female genital organs</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1085</strong></td>
<td><strong>356</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Detection and symptoms

- If the cancer is found and treated early, there is an increased chance of surviving the disease.
- There are a number of changes women should look out for. The changes may be due to many causes other than cancer but should always be brought to the attention of a doctor.
- Women should consult their general practitioner about the following:
  - Irregular vaginal bleeding;
  - Changes to the skin of the vulva such as redness, ulceration or irritation and itching;
  - Discomfort or bleeding during or after intercourse; and
  - Pelvic pain, swollen legs or backache.

Vaccine for cervical cancer
(Will be updated following the renewal of National Cervical Screening Program on the 01st of December 2017)

- Medical researchers have developed a vaccine to protect against cervical cancer caused by five types of the human papillomavirus (HPV).
- The vaccine, Gardasil, has been administered as part of Queensland Health’s school-based vaccination program, which began in April 2007. The vaccine was provided to female students with parental consent in Years 10, 11 and 12 and to girls in Years 8, 9 and 10 in the 2008 school year. Gardasil is now available on the PBS.
- From 2013 males aged 12-13 started receiving the vaccine and those aged 14-15 were part of a catch-up program until the end of 2014.
- The vaccine was developed at the University of Queensland by Professor Ian Frazer and his research team. The vaccine has almost 100 per cent protection against some human papillomavirus types (16 and 18) associated with the development of cervical cancer.
- Cancer Council Queensland has provided almost $2 million to Professor Frazer and his team since 1988 for research into the vaccine possibilities for prevention of the cancer.
- The best defense against cervical cancer is currently still a Pap smear test, as it picks up abnormal changes in the cervix that lead to cancer.

Information and Support

Cancer Council 13 11 20
Being diagnosed with cancer or supporting a family member or friend can leave you with many questions. By calling 13 11 20 you can speak with a Cancer Support Coordinator, who can provide you with cancer information, emotional and practical support.

Cancer Connect
Sometimes it helps to talk to someone who has been there and knows what you are going through. Cancer Connect is free and confidential peer support that connects you, your carer or loved ones over the telephone with a trained volunteer who has had a similar cancer experience. This support is available at diagnosis, during and after treatment.

Cancer Counselling Service
Cancer can at times leave you feeling stressed and overwhelmed. Talking things through with a counsellor can make a difference.
Our Cancer Counselling Service is for all Queenslanders distressed by cancer at any stage including people diagnosed with cancer, their family and friends. This appointment based service is staffed by nurse counsellors and registered psychologists, all with training and experience in helping people affected by cancer

For further information and support, please call Cancer Council 13 11 20
Disclaimer: The information in this publication should not be used as a substitute for advice from a properly qualified medical professional who can advise you about your own individual medical needs. It is not intended to constitute medical advice and is provided for general information purposes only. Information on cancer, including the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cancer, is constantly being updated and revised by medical professionals and the research community.

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