



GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER

Queensland^{1,2}

- ✦ 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).
- ✦ 356 Queensland women died from gynaecological cancer in 2014.
- ✦ 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

Site	Incidence	Deaths
Uterus	445	74
Ovary	280	188
Cervix	206	59
Vulva	85	16
Other female genital organs	69	19
Total	1085	356

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.

¹ Queensland Cancer Registry, 2017. Unpublished data (1982-2014).

² Queensland Cancer Statistics On-Line, 2017. Viertel Cancer Research Centre, Cancer Council Queensland (<https://qcsol.cancerqld.org.au/>). Based on data released by the Queensland Cancer Registry (1982-2014; released January 2017).

³ HPV vaccine <http://www.hpvvaccine.org.au/about-the-vaccine/vaccine-background.aspx>



National Cervical Screening Program

- ✦ The Australian Government's National Cervical Screening Program has changed to improve early detection and save more lives. From 1 December 2017 all women or anyone with a cervix aged between 25 and 74 years are invited to have a Cervical Screening Test every five years.
- ✦ Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers. The new Cervical Screening Test is expected to reduce cervical cancer rates and deaths by at least 20%.
- ✦ The test is a simple procedure to check the health of the cervix. It looks and feels the same as the Pap test, but tests for the human papillomavirus (known as HPV).
- ✦ For those who have been vaccinated against HPV, it is essential to still participate in regular cervical screening. The combination of the HPV vaccine and regular cervical screening is the best protection against cervical cancer. From 1 January 2018, Gardasil 9 will replace Gardasil 4 in the National Immunisation Program. Gardasil 9 protects against approximately 90% of HPV-related cervical cancer.
- ✦ Anyone with symptoms such as unusual bleeding, discharge or pain should see their health care professional immediately.
- ✦ For more information, visit www.cervicalscreening.org.au

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



Cancer Facts



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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