

THREE TARGETS

TO TRANSFORM THE FUTURE OF OVARIAN CANCER

ONE IN SEVEN WOMEN DIE WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF AN
OVARIAN CANCER DIAGNOSIS.



Ovarian cancer continues to be overlooked and women with the disease are being failed.

As a Member of Parliament, you have the power to change this by working with Target Ovarian Cancer.

We have a plan: three targets that will transform the future for everyone diagnosed with ovarian cancer. We need you to help us achieve them.



Help us make sure women know the symptoms.



Help us make sure women get the tests they need.



Help us make sure women get the treatment they deserve.

By working together, we can help ensure everyone diagnosed with ovarian cancer has the best possible chance of survival.

You can join us by:

- ▶ becoming a Target Ovarian Cancer Champion
- ▶ raising awareness of the symptoms
- ▶ engaging with your local healthcare system.

Contact Target Ovarian Cancer. We will provide constituency level data and more information on how you can get involved.



publicaffairs@targetovariancancer.org.uk



A government funded awareness campaign, so everyone knows the symptoms of ovarian cancer.

We know that too often women's pain and discomfort has not been taken seriously and they have not been equipped with the information they need on ovarian cancer.

With no viable screening programme, it is vital that every woman knows the symptoms and that we address the misconceptions around ovarian cancer to ensure women feel empowered to contact their GP at the earliest opportunity.

40%

of women wrongly believe that cervical screening detects ovarian cancer.



1 in 5

can name the symptom of bloating.

“ I had never even heard of ovarian cancer before my diagnosis, let alone suspected that my symptoms could be cancerous.

In the South Asian community, it just isn't talked about. If there had been an opportunity for me to learn these symptoms, I could have gone to my GP sooner and could have got an earlier diagnosis. I want to use my voice to fight for those who weren't given the knowledge that could have saved them.” **Sbba**



To ensure that everyone knows the symptoms of ovarian cancer we must see:

- ▶ A funded awareness campaign that features the symptoms of ovarian cancer.
- ▶ Cervical screening information used to highlight the symptoms of ovarian cancer.

**2**

A shorter diagnostic pathway for ovarian cancer, with support and training for GPs.

Currently, to get a diagnosis, women need their GP to refer them for a CA125 blood test and if that is raised then an ultrasound can be ordered. There are delays both in accessing tests and GPs then receiving the results. We know that the earlier a woman is diagnosed the greater her chance of survival, yet delays in accessing tests stop women from starting life-saving treatment.

**2 in 3**

women are diagnosed at a late stage when the disease is more difficult to treat.

The CA125 blood test is not always a reliable test for early-stage (stage I or II) disease, so using CA125 alone may miss early-stage disease which is the most treatable. To address both the delays in tests and the limitations of current diagnostic tools we need to see CA125 and ultrasound undertaken at the same time.

**40%**

of GPs reported waiting 15 days or more to receive ultrasound results.

GP awareness is also key to early diagnosis. However, too many women experience misdiagnosis and delays as a result of GPs not being educated or supported to diagnose ovarian cancer quickly.



I was diagnosed with stage three ovarian cancer after six months of misdiagnoses.

I was lucky that after my tests things moved quickly, but if I had got them sooner I might have received an earlier diagnosis. It was my determination to find an answer that saved my life.



Unfortunately, my story is all too common. Too many women are no longer here to describe their late diagnosis. I am determined that no woman waits this long for the tests they need.” **Reeta**

To ensure that women with ovarian cancer get the tests they need we must see:

- ▶ The diagnostic pathway for ovarian cancer shortened, with the CA125 blood test and ultrasound being carried out at the same time.
- ▶ GPs should have access to high quality information, training and support.



A funded national cancer plan to ensure that everyone can access the best possible treatment.

Everyone with ovarian cancer deserves the best possible treatment, targeted to their needs. Access to the right treatment is vital to improving a woman’s chance of survival, and surgery is the treatment that offers the best long-term prognosis. Access to treatment should not be determined by age or where you live.



women with ovarian cancer across England do not receive surgery as part of their treatment.

Ovarian cancer surgery is a complex, major operation so it is vital that surgery is undertaken at a specialist multidisciplinary diagnostic centre. Treatment at specialist centres improve survival by 45 per cent.



**diagnosed
received no
ovarian cancer
treatment at all.**

Those with ovarian cancer, particularly those who have rarer tumours, deserve access to the most cutting-edge treatment. Therefore, we must see greater access to clinical trials.



**of women over 70
receive neither
surgery nor
chemotherapy.**

“*My sister Leanne died eight days after her ovarian cancer diagnosis aged 39. After 20 months of misdiagnosis, she only found out she had ovarian cancer after an emergency hospital admission. By this point there was nothing they could do. She didn't get the treatment she deserved in time to save her life.*



Cancer is often portrayed as a journey through diagnosis, treatment and recovery. For Leanne, there was no journey. I want to give women everywhere the chance to survive.” **Natalie**

To ensure that women with ovarian cancer get the treatment they deserve we must see:

- ▶ A funded national cancer plan committing to ensuring equal access to surgery and other treatments.



Over 7,400 women

are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year in the UK.

Over 4,000 women



die from the disease each year in the UK; that is one woman every two hours.

Ovarian cancer is the

sixth most common

cause of cancer deaths in females in the UK.



If diagnosed at the earliest stage

93% of women

will survive for at least five years

compared to just

13% of women

diagnosed at the most advanced stage.





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