



Hôpital général juif
Jewish General Hospital

Patient and Family Resource Centre

Pavilion A, Room 200, local 2438 or 2453

Pavilion E, Room 761, local 2768

www.jgh.ca/gynonc

HEALTH INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS FOLLOWED IN THE GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY SERVICE

Chemotherapy for Ovarian Cancer

FROM CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY :

What is chemotherapy

Chemotherapy is the use of anti-cancer (cytotoxic) drugs to treat cancer. It is usually a systemic therapy that circulates throughout the body and destroys cancer cells, including those that may have broken away from the primary tumour. Chemotherapy may be given after surgery for some types of ovarian cancer. It is also given to relieve pain or to control the symptoms of advanced ovarian cancer (palliative chemotherapy).

How chemotherapy works

Chemotherapy for ovarian cancer may be given intravenously (into a vein) or by intraperitoneal (IP) chemotherapy. During IP chemotherapy, drugs are injected directly into the space between the abdominal organs and the membrane lining the abdominal wall (peritoneal space or peritoneal cavity). This requires the surgical placement of a special intra-peritoneal port. The port allows the drugs to be safely delivered. The surgeon may place the port at the time of surgery for the ovarian cancer, or as a separate surgery.

When drugs are given during IP chemotherapy, they circulate and treat tumours throughout the abdomen. The drugs are also absorbed into the bloodstream, so IP chemotherapy is considered to be a type of systemic chemotherapy. IP chemotherapy is given in addition to intravenous chemotherapy.

Drugs, doses and schedules vary from woman to woman.

For more information please talk to your doctor or visit the **Canadian Cancer Society** website:
<http://www.cancer.ca/> > Quebec > Cancer Information > Cancer Type > Ovarian > Treatment > **Chemotherapy**

Turn over for more useful resources →

Please note: The information provided by the Library is for educational purposes. The Library staff are not medical professionals and cannot diagnose illness or recommend treatment. We encourage you to discuss the information we provide with your doctor or healthcare professional.



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USEFUL WEBSITES

❖ **OVARIAN CANCER CANADA**

Ovarian Cancer Canada has undertaken some key initiatives that have dramatically contributed to the advancement and understanding of the issues surrounding ovarian cancer in Canada.

<http://www.ovariancanada.org/> > **About Ovarian Cancer** > **Treatment** > [Chemotherapy](#)

❖ **BC CANCER AGENCY (BCCA)**

The BC Cancer Agency's mandate covers the spectrum of cancer care from prevention and screening, to diagnosis, treatment, and through to rehabilitation.

www.bccancer.bc.ca > **Health Info** > **Types of Cancer** > **Women's Cancer** > **Ovary** > [Treatment](#)

❖ **WOMEN'S HEALTH MATTERS**

Women's health experts from Women's College Hospital and the Women's College Research Institute developed this site and play an ongoing role in its expansion and review.

www.womenshealthmatters.ca > **Health centres** > **Ovarian cancer** > **Treatment** > [Chemotherapy](#)

❖ **NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**

The US Government's main agency for cancer research and training.

www.cancer.gov > **Cancer topics** > **Treatment** > **Types of treatment** > [Chemotherapy](#)

www.cancer.gov > **Cancer Types** > **All Cancer Types** > **Ovarian Cancer** [patient]

- > [Ovarian Epithelial Cancer Treatment](#) [patient]
- > [Ovarian Germ Cell Tumors Treatment](#) [patient]
- > [Ovarian Low Malignant Potential Tumors](#) [patient]
- > [Drugs Approved for Ovarian Cancer](#)

❖ **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY**

www.cancer.org > **Learn About Cancer** > **View All Cancer Types** > Choose "Ovarian cancer"
> **Detailed Guide** > [Treating Ovarian Cancer : Chemotherapy for Ovarian Cancer](#)

❖ **WOMEN'S CANCER NETWORK**

The patient information website by the Foundation for Women's Cancer, a not for profit organization dedicated to funding research and training, and ensuring education and public awareness of gynecologic cancer prevention, early detection and optimal treatment.

www.wcn.org > **Learn More** > **Types of Gynecologic Cancers** > **Ovarian Cancer** > [Chemotherapy](#)

❖ **CANCERHELP UK**

The website is designed by Cancer Research UK that provides reliable, easy to understand patient information.

www.cancerhelp.org.uk > **Your cancer type** > **Ovarian cancer** > **Treating ovarian cancer** > [Chemotherapy](#)