



TREATMENTS

SURGERY

- Primary or definitive treatment for most ovarian cancers
- Always be performed by gynecologic oncologist
- Goals of surgery:
 - Remove the cancer
 - Determine stage of cancer
 - If cancer has spread, where, size of deposits?
- Surgery can be performed using one of two approaches:
 - Open (abdomen open with one long cut)
 - Laparoscopic/Robotic (Three or four small cuts are made to insert a tube with a camera and surgical tools)
- Surgery can happen before or after chemotherapy

TARGETED THERAPY

- A drug that targets a specific or unique feature of a cancer cell
- Available in specific clinical situations

IMMUNOTHERAPY

- A drug designed to increase the activity of immune system
- Available in specific clinical situations

HORMONE THERAPY

- A drug that stops the body from making a hormone or stops the action of a hormone
- An oral medication or pill
- Generally given after chemotherapy and/or surgery

CHEMOTHERAPY

- Chemical agent developed to kill a cancer cell
- Can be given multiple routes (e.g. IV, oral, into cavities)
- Can be given with or without surgery
- If plan is to attempt to shrink cancerous tumor, chemotherapy may be given before surgery; this is called *neoadjuvant* chemotherapy
- Chemotherapy given after surgery is called adjuvant
- A **treatment** is the established plan of drug(s), ordered by a physician and given to a patient. Generally, a treatment is given intravenously (IV) or by a needle. However, other routes are acceptable, depending of the drug.
- A **cycle** is the number of times the drug, or combination of drugs, will be given. For example, the patient is receiving cycle #2 of 6 cycles of chemotherapy.
- A **course** of treatment is the length of time for their chemotherapy. A course is described in weeks or months, and in cycles. Example: A patient will receive 4 cycles of X drugs and 4 cycles of Y drug over A to B weeks.

RADIATION THERAPY

- Use of X-rays or other types of energy to kill cancer cells
- Not typically used in treatment of ovarian cancer
- May be used to manage symptoms if cancer has spread to other parts of body (e.g. brain)