

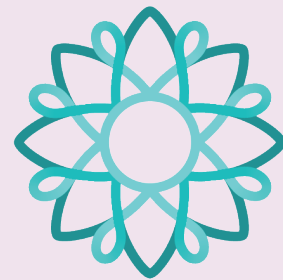
**LOTO ONLUS**

*Italy*



**GLOBAL  
OVARIAN  
CANCER  
CHARTER**  
a World Ovarian Cancer  
Coalition initiative

“Loto Onlus is proud to be a Charter Champion in Italy, as we believe that together we can really make a difference for all women so that they are aware of advances in ovarian cancer research and therapies so we are able to improve their survival and quality of life”



**Loto**

Uniti contro  
il tumore ovarico

ONLUS



**RAPID DIAGNOSIS**

Training for family  
doctors

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**CHAMPION**

[www.lotonlus.org](http://www.lotonlus.org)

## CHAMPION PROJECT: TRAINING FOR FAMILY DOCTORS

National guidelines on the symptoms of ovarian cancer and assessment of symptomatic women do not exist in Italy. Whilst there are some regional criteria, these differ between areas and there is no national co-ordination. Loto Onlus is now working to try and widen collaboration and agreement on this matter.

This lack of consistency is a major block together with the need for training for family doctors in relation to

ovarian cancer symptoms and testing processes. Loto Onlus has established a programme of training for family doctors to try to improve the situation.

So far over 450 doctors have undergone the training, which up until the COVID-19 pandemic, took place in person, with the course being delivered by two professors involved in the care of women with ovarian cancer. Initial assessment of participants shows the areas requiring improvement

which are then remedied by the training, and in addition provides the family doctors with a point of contact, so they can access fast advice on cases and access to tests.

The Coalition chose to showcase this work because it recognises and tackles one of the key challenges of rapid diagnosis. Unless doctors understand the challenging symptoms presented to them by women, and have the ability to access prompt tests then diagnosis will be unduly delayed, meaning less women are able to start and tolerate treatment. Loto Onlus is now working to drive agreement between regions on symptom guidance and testing.



The charity is now in the process of converting the course to an online model.

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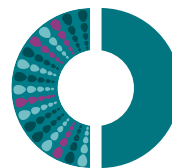


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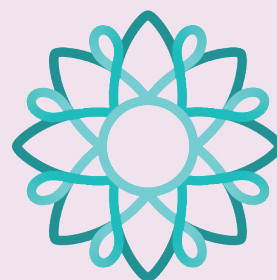
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**BEST POSSIBLE  
CARE**

PDTA-OC  
Diagnostic & Therapeutic  
Assistance Path for  
Ovarian Cancer

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## CHAMPION PROJECT: PDTA-OC – DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC ASSISTANCE PATH FOR OVARIAN CANCER

Once a woman has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer, the best possible care pathway includes assessment at a hospital which sees a high volume of women with ovarian cancer, and surgery conducted by highly experienced surgeons, with multi-disciplinary team care.

The regional health structure in Italy means that where they exist, guidelines defining treatment are not always consistent, and many women do not receive specialty care they could benefit from, with surgery often being performed by doctors already known to them. Loto Onlus is working alongside public health institutions to define the recommended pathways, so that women can be directed to the regional centres of excellence, specialised in pathology and seeing a high number of ovarian cancer cases each year.

The PDTA is a public description of institutional commitment in a region defining the correct process to take care of a patient. Initially the implementation of the PDTA starts with the clinicians, involving them in the first steps and sharing the decision on referring centres criteria. This is a major task. It is also shared with smaller regional hospitals, where it is often the case that women will seek care from doctors (gynaecologists) already known to them, and it will also involve educating women that they should seek out specialist help. So far there are 6 such regional pathways with more in development. Loto Onlus hope all regions will have guidelines by 2023.

The Coalition chose to showcase this work the importance of getting the best possible care is so high for women with ovarian cancer. Standardising guidance and trying to make sure it is adhered to is a really important step forward, together with making sure doctors and women know why specialty care is so vital to improving survival and quality of life.

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