



The Global Ovarian Cancer Charter is a call to action for all those committed to improving survival and quality of life for women with ovarian cancer.

GLOBAL OVARIAN CANCER CHARTER DATA BRIEFING

CHARTER GOAL: RAPID DIAGNOSIS | MAY 2022

In 2018 the Every Woman Study™ revealed that the average time for a woman to be diagnosed with ovarian cancer from when she first noticed symptoms was 31 weeks.

This data briefing underscores the need to improve the overall time to diagnosis allowing more women to be diagnosed when they have a better chance of starting and tolerating treatment.

RAPID DIAGNOSIS DATA BRIEFING

TOO LATE TO TREAT

The sooner a woman is diagnosed with ovarian cancer the more likely she will be well enough to undergo and tolerate treatments or be enrolled in clinical trials. Sadly, right now many women are so unwell when they are diagnosed that few, if any, options exist. Delays in diagnosis and care leaves too many women behind and denies them the chance of better outcomes and a better quality of life.

With no screening programme yet available, rapid diagnosis is vital and there are three key components to reducing delays in diagnosis:

1. Women knowing when to see a doctor
2. Doctors recognising the symptoms of ovarian cancer
3. A health system with access to, and timely completion of, diagnostic tests



DEATHS WITHIN ONE YEAR OF DIAGNOSIS ¹	
Asia	52,915
Europe	14,300
North America	4,437
Africa	11,067
Latin America & Caribbean	6,659
Oceania	448

¹ This estimate is calculated using Global Cancer Observatory Data, taking one year incidence and comparing this to one year prevalence (the number of women alive within one year of diagnosis).

KNOWING WHAT TO LOOK FOR

The Every Woman Study™ 2018 explored the experiences of over 1500 women living with a diagnosis of ovarian cancer across 44 different countries. Over two thirds of women who took part in the Study had either not heard of ovarian cancer or did not know anything about it prior to their diagnosis. Yet the Study shows the difference disease and symptom awareness makes, finding that women who knew more about ovarian cancer were more likely to visit a doctor within three months of experiencing symptoms (85.4% vs 74.8%, $p=0.04$), and to then be diagnosed within one month (58.3% vs 43.2%, $p=.035$).

The Study found that the proportion of women who had not heard or knew nothing about ovarian cancer prior to diagnosis ranged from 50.9% to 86.4% in participating countries.¹

¹ Data only reported for countries with sufficient number of survey responses to show statistically significant differences from the average.

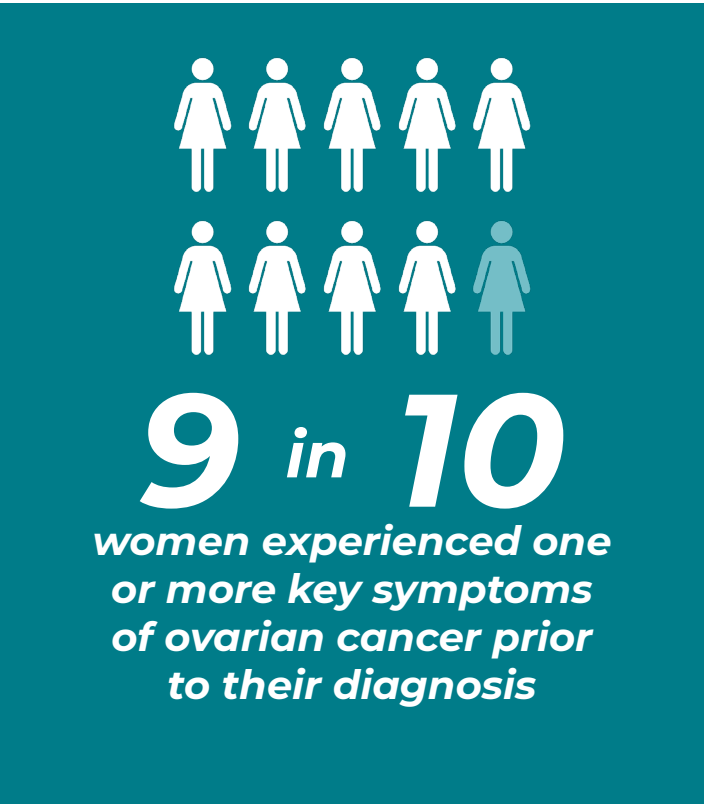
RAPID DIAGNOSIS DATA BRIEFING

GETTING REFERRED

The Every Woman Study™ asked about women's experiences of seeking help; four in ten women reported that they felt that health professionals did not take their concerns very, or at all, seriously. This is reflected in referral rates. While four in ten women were referred after their first visit, for three in ten women it took three or more visits to a health professional before being referred for investigation.

WAITING FOR A DIAGNOSIS

Too many women are being left behind as they wait for a diagnosis. This can be due to a lack of awareness of the symptoms and risk factors of ovarian cancer amongst women, a lack of awareness amongst health professionals, and/or the time it can take for health systems to complete diagnostic tests.



**ESTIMATED AVERAGE TIME FROM EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS TO DIAGNOSIS,
BY COUNTRY IN WEEKS (n=1093)¹**

	TIME TO VISIT DOCTOR AFTER SYMPTOM APPEARANCE	TIME FROM 1ST VISIT TO DIAGNOSIS	TOTAL TIME TO DIAGNOSIS
Australia	10.7	21.8	32.5
Canada	12.8	22.8	35.6
Germany	5.5	15.8	21.3
Hungary	11.2	15.4	26.6
Italy	15.2	16.3	31.5
Japan	10.7	11	21.7
Spain	7.9	15	22.9
UK	8.6	22.2	30.8
USA	12.9	23.6	36.5

1 World Ovarian Cancer Coalition, The Every Woman Study™ 2018

RAPID DIAGNOSIS DATA BRIEFING

The Every Woman Study™ asked the nine in ten women who experienced symptoms related to ovarian cancer about the time it took for them to seek help from a doctor. In the country with the shortest average time from women becoming aware of symptoms to seeking help, this was just five and a half weeks. The highest country average was 16.3 weeks.

Women also recounted their experience of the time taken from this first visit to diagnosis and again wide variations were seen.

The time it takes to diagnose the disease can make the difference between a woman being well enough to undergo treatment or too poorly for anything to be done. It shows women in some countries are waiting twice as long as others to receive a diagnosis.

ACTIONS

Simply by matching the fastest country average time to visit a doctor and time from that visit to diagnosis we could halve the total diagnostic pathway from an average of 31 to 16 and a half weeks, a difference approaching 4 months in duration.

There are three steps needed to see more women diagnosed more rapidly and better able to tolerate treatment :

1. Raise awareness of symptoms among women so they know when to seek help
2. Improve knowledge among health professionals so they know when to refer women on
3. Build capacity in health systems to enable timely access to diagnostic tests.



SOURCES

Global Cancer Observatory: <https://gco.iarc.fr>

Reid F, Bhatla N, Oza AM, et al The World Ovarian Cancer Coalition Every Woman Study: identifying challenges and opportunities to improve survival and quality of life International Journal of Gynecologic Cancer 2021;31:238-244. <https://ijgc.bmj.com/content/31/2/238> and <https://worldovariancancercoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/WOCC-Every-Woman-Study-Summary-Report-Nov-08.pdf>