There are three major categories of ovarian cancer: epithelial ovarian cancer, germ cell cancer, and stromal cell cancer.

Patients with early-stage disease may notice any of the common symptoms of ovarian cancer, including bloating, pelvic pain, increased urinary frequency or urgency, and difficulty eating or feeling full quickly.

The FWC ovarian cancer web page will take you through the basics of what you need to know about this gynecologic cancer.

**Symptoms**
- Bloating
- Urinary symptoms, urgency or frequency
- Pelvic or abdominal pain
- Difficulty eating or feeling full quickly

These symptoms are particularly concerning if they occur almost daily for a few weeks or more. If this happens to you, see a doctor, preferably a gynecologist, and specifically ask about the possibility of ovarian cancer as a cause of your symptoms. If ovarian cancer is suspected or diagnosed, seek care first from a gynecologic oncologist.

**Risk Factors**
- Risk increases with age, especially around the time of menopause.
- Family history of ovarian cancer, fallopian tube cancer, primary peritoneal cancer, or premenopausal breast cancer, or a personal history of premenopausal breast cancer.
- Infertility and not bearing children are risk factors, while pregnancy and the use of birth control pills decrease risk.
- Family history of both colon and endometrial cancers: any male family member with breast cancer.
- Ashkenazi Jewish heritage

**Risk Reduction**
- Genetic testing
- Use of oral contraceptives
- Consider risk reducing surgery if genetic testing indicates very high risk
- Understand your risk and listen to your body for symptoms
- If ovarian cancer is suspected or diagnosed, seek care first from a gynecologic oncologist.