

Ovarian & Gynecologic Cancer Coalition (OGCC/Rhonda's Club)

The Need:

Ovarian & other gynecologic cancers impact women of all ages—from teens to 80+.

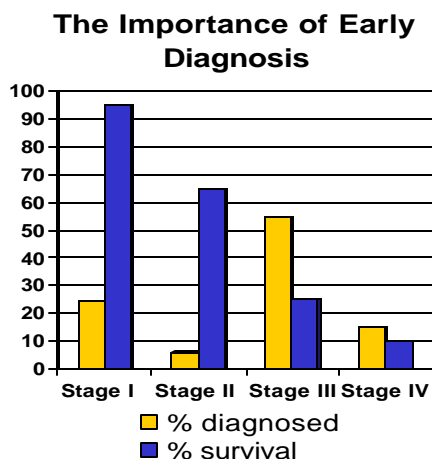
Ovarian cancer afflicts 1 in 59 women in their lifetime--most will be diagnosed with late stage (Stage III or IV) disease.

Women diagnosed at early stage (Stages I or II) have better survival.

Clinical medicine has confirmed what most women with cancer know—nearly 9 out of 10 women DO have symptoms at the early stages when these cancers are more survivable.

Unfortunately, in our three-state area, approximately 600 women die annually because of ovarian cancer.

Currently, there is NO diagnostic test. The PAP test does not detect ovarian & most gynecologic cancers. The PAP test detects cervical cancer.



Symptom awareness can lead to early detection -- and saved lives.

History:

OGCC/Rhonda's Club was founded in 1997 by ovarian & gynecologic cancer survivors as a forum for women, their families, and caregivers to engage in a dialogue with the cancer doctors and other professionals on issues that improve choices in diagnosis, therapies, treatment, and quality of life. These survivor educational programs remain the core of our mission.

OGCC/Rhonda's Club helped found and remains an active partner member of the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance (OCNA), the national organization for ovarian cancer. In addition, OCGG/Rhonda's Club leaders are engaged in leadership positions nationally within the OCNA, the National Cancer Institute, and Department of Defense, and locally within the larger cancer community in the greater Washington, DC area.

OGCC Vision:

1. All Washington area women with ovarian and related gynecologic cancers have access to supportive programs and information that improves the quality of their health decisions.
2. By 2020, 80% of ovarian cancer cases detected in the Greater Washington area will be detected at early stage.

Mission:

To achieve these visions, OCGG/Rhonda's Club works on its core mission of providing supportive programs and information for ovarian and gynecologic cancer survivors and their families. In addition, to achieve our longer term goal, we will improve the awareness of these diseases by:

- **Survivor Education:** Providing supportive educational programs to enhance the dialogue between women, their families, caregivers, and top cancer doctors and other professional about the newest diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life issues to improve life choices when living with cancer.
- **Teal Class—Survivors Teaching Students:** Elevating symptom awareness within the medical and public health community to increase awareness of the subtle symptoms of these deadly diseases.
- **Public Education & Outreach:** Elevating public awareness of the symptoms, risk factors, and actions women can take to catch these diseases at earlier stages when they are more 'curable.'
- **Shaping the Future:** Advocating for needed research & other programs to improve detection, treatment, and the quality of life for survivors.

OGCC/Rhonda's Club

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