

Ovarian Cancer

Ovarian cancer is the eighth most common cancer and ranks as the sixth most common cause of cancer death in Australian women.

Risk factors include a familial tendency (10 - 15% of ovarian cancers) and age - neither of which is easily modifiable. Vague, generalised symptoms result in presentation at an advanced stage, often resulting in a poor prognosis. This requires that clinicians are alert to the potential significance of symptoms during any assessment.

Improved outcomes have been shown for women who receive timely referral and treatment by a gynaecological oncologist, supported by the full multidisciplinary team.

Specialised expertise is scarce in rural and remote Australia, which means patients will face enduring travel to receive their treatment, an additional burden. Rural practitioners should have a strong relationship with a metropolitan specialist for prompt referral and to ensure the patients care can be coordinated at home as much as possible.

This program will outline the appropriate model of care for ovarian cancer patients and explore practical "action plans" for the care of patients in rural areas.

Program objectives

At the end of this program practitioners will:

- Have increased knowledge of the risk factors and symptoms of ovarian cancer.
- Have increased knowledge about treatment and management options across the continuum of the disease.
- Understand the importance of and procedures relating to multidisciplinary care in improving outcomes for women with ovarian cancer.
- Identify an appropriate model of care for rural women diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

Panellists include:

Chair: **Dr Norman Swan**, Presenter of the *Health Report* on ABC Radio National.

Professor Thomas Jobling, Head of Gynaecological Oncology, Monash Medical Centre; Chairperson and co-founder, Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation, Melbourne.

Professor Michael Friedlander, Director, Prince of Wales Hospital Medical Oncology service; Chairperson, Australian and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group & President Elect, International Gynaecological Cancer Society, Sydney.

Assoc. Professor Chris Milross, Head, Department of Radiation Oncology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney.

Dr Patrick Giltrap, General Practitioner, Gilgandra NSW & RACGP Rural GP of the Year 2005.

Broadcast details on the Foundation's satellite network

This program will be broadcast LIVE on Tuesday 20th June 2006 on Channel 4 at:

- 8.00pm in ACT, NSW, QLD, TAS & VIC.

- 7.30pm in SA & NT

- 6.00pm in WA (and repeated in WA on Channel 23

at 8.00pm)

Also on Friday 23rd June 2006 on Channel 23 at:

- 12.30pm in ACT, NSW, QLD, VIC & TAS.

- 12 noon in SA & NT

- 10.30am in WA.

This program will be web streamed after the live broadcast and will also be available as an downloadable audio MP3 file.

For more details visit the <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/608/608.html> program page.

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