

# Ovarian Carcinosarcoma

*Patient Information Series – What you should know, what you should ask.*

## **What is an ovarian Carcinosarcoma?**

Ovarian carcinosarcomas, also known as mixed malignant Müllerian tumors, are rare types of malignant ovarian tumors. These neoplasms are typically diagnosed in postmenopausal women and are often bilateral. It is a rare condition and accounts for 1–4% of all ovarian malignant tumors.

## **What are the clinical symptoms?**

The most frequent clinical symptoms are abdominal or pelvic pain, abdominal bloating and distension, and gastrointestinal complaints related to the rapid tumor growth and palpable abdominal mass.

## **Should I have more tests done?**

It could be useful to do a blood test to check a serum marker called Ca 125, because it is usually high. A transvaginal and transabdominal ultrasound evaluation could be useful as first imaging examination to make the diagnosis. Then, a total body Computed Tomography scan is usually recommended to identify any signs of tumor spread before surgery.

## **What is the best treatment?**

Surgery followed by chemotherapy is the standard treatment.

## **What is the prognosis? Will it happen again?**

Unfortunately, the prognosis is poor, and most patients relapse within one year after completion of treatment.

## **What other questions should I ask?**

- Is the tumor limited to my ovary or is it advanced?
- What is the best treatment for my condition?
- Will I be able to get pregnant after treatment?
- What are the problems that can happen with the treatment?
- Where is the best center for me to receive treatments?
- Which follow-up will I need after treatment?

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