

Ovarian cancer prevention in the general and in the high risk population

Robert Fruscio, MD, PhD

Associate Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Director of the Residency Program in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Department of Medicine and Surgery, University of Milan Bicocca
Fondazione IRCCS San Gerardo, U.O. Ginecologia
Via Pergolesi 33, Monza (MB), Italy

The incidence of ovarian cancer has constantly decreased over the last 30 years, mainly because of the widespread use of oral contraceptives and the increased number of women undergoing prophylactic surgery. Ovarian cancer prevention is currently not possible in the general population, as screening with transvaginal ultrasound and CA125 has been proven to be not effective; on the other hands, in women at high risk of developing ovarian cancer, oophorectomy is safe and reduces the incidence and mortality for ovarian cancer. Since this intervention is associated with the onset of premature iatrogenic menopause, the evaluation of alternative strategies is urgently needed.