

Hormone therapy is used to block certain hormones such as estrogen and progesterone that may affect the way some cancers grow. This may be done using medications to block the hormones or by surgically removing the organs that make hormones.

uterine sarcoma

A rare type of cancer of the uterus, uterine sarcoma occurs in the muscle of the uterus. It is treated with surgery, radiation and/or chemotherapy.

Staging is used to determine how advanced the cancer is and to measure progress of the disease. The type of treatment is also chosen based on the cancer stage, with advanced cancers requiring more aggressive therapies.

clinical trials

M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando is committed to improving the health and quality of life of the individuals and communities we serve. Cancer clinical trials are an important aspect of the care provided at our center. A cancer clinical trial is a research study that is conducted by healthcare professionals with the intent to improve the care and treatment of cancer patients. We conduct clinical trials that test new ways to detect, treat, reduce side effects, and improve the comfort and quality of life for people with cancer. The decision to participate in a clinical trial is very personal and should never be made lightly. To make an informed decision about your treatment, it is important to consider the possible advantages and disadvantages of a clinical trial and how your participation might affect you and your family. Your doctor will talk with you about the option of clinical trials.

m. d. anderson cancer center orlando

The M. D. Anderson name has long been synonymous with excellence and innovation. Our specialized multidisciplinary approach means each patient benefits from the expertise of a team of professionals including medical, radiation and surgical oncologists, pathologists and radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians and advanced practice nurses, along with support staff such as social workers, counselors, dietitians and pharmacists. You can be assured of receiving exceptional attention based upon your individual diagnosis and medical needs.

Our relationship with The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston allows for expert consultation of the pathology and confirmation of diagnoses. We can also present patients in Orlando through our teleconferences with Houston and provide state-of-the-art treatment to diseases that otherwise do not have an established standard of care approach. In addition, unusual cases and atypical presentations can be discussed with experts in Pathology, Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology.

MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER ORLANDO

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gynecologic cancers

The Gynecologic Oncology Center at M. D. Anderson - Orlando provides services for women who have been diagnosed with cancer of the reproductive organs and for those who experience symptoms such as persistently abnormal pap smears. The board certified gynecologic oncologists on our staff provide patients with rapid and accurate evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment recommendations. In addition, our physicians have the necessary expertise to perform the radical surgery sometimes required in the treatment of patients with gynecologic malignancies.

what are gynecologic cancers?

Gynecologic cancers are found in the female reproductive tract and include ovarian, cervical, uterine, vaginal, vulvar, or tubal cancer.

ovarian cancer

Currently, ovarian cancer is the second most common malignancy of the female reproductive tract in the United States. About 90 percent of ovarian cancers are epithelial ovarian carcinomas. In this type of cancer, a malignant tumor originates in the lining on the outside of the ovary. The risk of epithelial ovarian cancer increases with age, especially after the age of 50.

Germ cell tumors account for approximately five percent of all ovarian cancers and originate in the egg-producing cells found within the ovary.

This type of ovarian cancer can occur in women of any age, but about 80 percent are diagnosed in women under the age of 30.

Sex cord stromal tumors develop in the connective tissue that holds the ovary together and produces the female hormones estrogen and progesterone. These tumors account for about five percent of all ovarian cancers. Sex cord stromal tumors are relatively rare and usually less aggressive than other ovarian tumors.

key technologies and treatments

Surgery is the preferred treatment for ovarian cancer. Initially, surgery is used to confirm the diagnosis and stage of ovarian cancer, as well as to remove the cancerous tumor. Following chemotherapy, a second surgery may be performed to check for any evidence of persistent ovarian cancer.

Chemotherapy is usually required for most ovarian cancer patients following surgery to stop the cancer cells from dividing and reproducing. Most chemotherapy can be given on an outpatient basis although some regimens require hospitalization and are given over a period of several days.

Intraperitoneal chemotherapy involves inserting a catheter into the abdominal cavity to deliver chemotherapy medications directly to the tumor, rather than through the bloodstream.

cervical cancer and cervical dysplasia

The overall incidence of cervical cancer has declined since the mid-1940s with 13,000 new cases anticipated in the United States annually. It is believed that up to 95 percent of cervical cancer cases are linked to the human papilloma

virus (HPV), a sexually transmitted infection, although most women infected with HPV will not develop cervical cancer.

Cervical dysplasia is a precancerous change of the cervix that can lead to cervical cancer if not treated.

key technologies and treatments

Treatments for cervical dysplasia include:

- **Cryosurgery** uses an instrument to freeze and destroy the cancerous tissue.
- **Laser surgery** uses a laser beam as a knife to remove the cancer, or to kill the cancerous cells.
- **Loop electrosurgical excision procedure** (LEEP) uses an electric current passed through a thin wire loop, which then is used as a knife to remove cancerous tissue.
- **Cone biopsy** uses a scalpel to remove a wedge of the tissue from the cervix while preserving the uterus for childbearing.
- **Hysterectomy** is the removal of the uterus and cervix. If the uterus is removed through the vagina, the procedure is called a vaginal hysterectomy. If the uterus is taken out through an incision in the abdomen, the procedure is called a total abdominal hysterectomy.

Treatments for cervical cancer include:

- **Radical hysterectomy** involves the removal of the cervix, uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries, and part of the vagina. Lymph nodes also may be removed.
- **Pelvic exenteration** is considered if the cancer has recurred in the pelvis. In this operation, the lower colon, rectum or bladder may be removed along with the cervix, uterus, and vagina.

Radiation therapy is the use of X-rays or other type of radiation to kill cancer cells and shrink

tumors. Radiation therapy may be either external, using a machine from outside the body, or internal. Internal radiation therapy uses radioisotopes (substances that produce radiation) that are inserted directly into the area where the cancer cells are located.

Chemotherapy for cervical cancer is given with radiation for a better outcome.

uterine cancer

Uterine cancer is the most common type of cancer of the female reproductive system in the United States. Most uterine cancers are endometrial cancer, which develops in the lining of the uterus (the endometrium). Endometrial cancer is highly curable.

key technologies and treatments

Surgery is the most common treatment for endometrial cancer and the following surgical procedures may be used:

- **Hysterectomy and bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy** involve the removal of the uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries through an incision in the abdomen. Some pelvic lymph nodes also may be removed.
- **Radical hysterectomy** is the removal of the cervix, uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries, and part of the vagina.

Radiation therapy or hormone therapy may be offered in conjunction with surgery.

Chemotherapy for endometrial cancer is used for recurrent or widespread disease.

Radiation therapy may be either internal or external and may be used alone or in addition to surgery, chemotherapy or both.