

Early detection of ovarian cancer with transvaginal ultrasound

Numbers for women aged 50 to 74 years who either took part or did not take part in annual ovarian cancer screening with transvaginal ultrasound over the course of 11 years.

	1,000 women without screening	1,000 women with screening
Benefits		
How many women died from ovarian cancer?		about 3 in each group
How many women died overall?		about 69 in each group
Harms		
How many women without ovarian cancer experienced a false alarm and had unnecessary surgery (e.g. removal of ovaries)?	–	32
How many of these women experienced complications after surgery?*	–	1

*e.g. intestinal injuries, strong bleeding, or complications with the wound healing

Short summary: Ovarian cancer screening did not reduce the number of women who died from ovarian cancer. Among the women who participated in the screening, some were overdiagnosed and received unnecessary treatment.

Sources: [1] Jacobs et al. *Lancet* 2016;387(10022)945-956. [2] Menon et al. *Lancet Oncol* 2009;10(4)327-340.