



Understanding endometrial cancer

MARCELLE RUTH
CANCER CENTRE & SPECIALIST HOSPITAL

**The Marcelle Ruth Cancer Centre
& Specialist Hospital is the first
comprehensive healthcare centre of its
kind in Nigeria and indeed West Africa.**

> Our promise

In everything we do, we believe that compassion and care make all the difference.

With vast experience and understanding, our specialist team uses the very latest technology and treatments to deliver the best outcomes possible.

From screening and diagnosis to treatment and ongoing support, we are committed to providing outstanding care to those in need.

About this booklet

We understand it can be overwhelming for anyone to undergo cancer care, but we are here to provide you with help and support.

The focus of this leaflet is to help you and your family understand more about endometrial cancer.

Endometrial cancer

Endometrial cancer occurs when the lining of your uterus or womb grow in an uncontrolled way and form a tumour.

We don't know what causes it but we do know that it is influenced by your age, lifestyle and family history.

Risk factors

They include:

- age: risk of womb cancer increases with age
- being overweight or obese
- oestrogen: it causes cells in the womb to divide thereby increasing the risk of mistakes being made
- hormone replacement therapy
- tamoxifen: has similar effect on the womb as oestrogen
- diabetes
- polycystic ovary syndrome
- thickened womb lining
- starting your period at a young age or in late menopause
- family history.

Symptoms

The most common symptom of womb cancer is abnormal bleeding from the vagina. This is especially in women who have stopped having periods (post-menopausal women).

Abnormal bleeding can be:

- vaginal bleeding after the menopause
- bleeding that is unusually heavy or happens between periods
- vaginal discharge – from pink and watery to dark and foul-smelling.

About 9 out of 10 womb cancers (90%) are picked up because of post-menopausal or irregular vaginal bleeding. This is why womb cancer is so often diagnosed early.

Diagnosis

The following tests can be used to diagnose endometrial cancer and helps find out whether the cancer has spread or not.

- transvaginal ultrasound scan
- biopsy of the womb lining
- CT scan
- MRI
- PET-CT scan
- chest x-ray.

Treatment

Your treatment depends on the type of womb cancer you have, how large it is, whether it has spread and your general health.

The main treatment is surgery. After surgery, or if surgery isn't possible, you might have chemotherapy, radiotherapy or a combination of treatments.

Notes

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