

Soundbite Script – Broadcast – Ovarian Cancer: The Silent Disease

Dr. Christina Kramer, OB/GYN, OSF HealthCare

“That’s been the challenging part of ovarian cancer -- it usually presents at an advanced stage because the symptoms are so vague and may represent another clinical condition.”

Dr. Christina Kramer, OB/GYN, OSF HealthCare

“Ovarian cancer is a cancer that arises from the ovaries or the female reproductive organs and it can occur in women at any age group – premenopausal, perimenopausal or postmenopausal women. How it presents is a little bit different for different age groups and it will be most common in a postmenopausal patient.”

Dr. Christina Kramer, OB/GYN, OSF HealthCare

“Typical symptoms would be abdominal pain, pelvic pain, bloating, changes in bowel or urinary habits, and unfortunately all of these are late signs indicating the tumor has spread beyond the ovaries at that point. However, in women who are at a higher risk based on a family history or a particular genetic mutation, we may see a lesion or an abnormal cyst on an ultrasound, where we can maybe catch a lesion at an earlier stage.”

Dr. Christina Kramer, OB/GYN, OSF HealthCare

“Risk factors for ovarian cancer include a family history of breast or ovarian cancer. Sometimes that makes us question whether there is a genetic mutation. Other risk factors are anything that would allow a woman to have more ovulatory events in her life – early onset of menses, fewer pregnancies, shorter duration of breastfeeding and later menopause are other risk factors.”

Dr. Christina Kramer, OB/GYN, OSF HealthCare

“The hard part is if there is ever a concern – I have a lot of patients say something just doesn’t feel right trust your gut instinct on that one and go in and get evaluated.”