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Updates in

Diagnostic imaging for ovarian cancer.

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Abstract

Ovarian cancers (OC) include a group of diseases with variable prognoses.

While most conventional imaging techniques rely on the detection of tumor burden and distant spread to identify treatment plans, more emphasis is now being placed on screening for early detection and also for more accurate staging using molecular imaging techniques.

It is generally accepted that there are some incremental benefits of using serum CA125 levels coupled with cross-sectional diagnostic imaging to aid in the diagnosis, staging and treatment planning of OC.

The role of imaging in ovarian cancer is threefold: Detection, characterization, and staging. The detection of ovarian cancer can often be difficult by physical examination alone. Imaging has come to play a key role in the detection of ovarian cancer. Imaging plays an equally important role in the characterization of ovarian masses, as the number of benign ovarian masses greatly exceeds the number of malignant masses. Preoperative staging by imaging is also crucial to identify patients who are potential candidates for optimal debulking surgery.

This presentation provides a review of tests and diagnostic imaging modalities that aid in the detection and staging of OC with a particular focus on F18-Fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography (F18-FDG PET/CT) imaging.

In conclusion, diagnostic imaging with particular focus in molecular imaging has the potential for altering management plans, which can ultimately help improve the prognosis of ovarian cancer.

Keywords: diagnostic imaging MRI PET/CT molecular imaging adnexal mass