



Fact Sheet
17 June 2011

Endometrial Cancer

- Endometrial cancer is the most common invasive gynaecological cancer in Australia and specifically refers to cancer that arises from the lining of the uterus (called the endometrium). It affects approximately 1 in 69 Australian women before the age of 75 years.¹
- In 2010, about 2,100 women, were expected to be diagnosed with endometrial cancer. This means that across Australia, on average, six females were diagnosed with endometrial cancer each day in 2010.¹
- There are an estimated 370 deaths from the disease each year in Australia.¹
- The incidence of endometrial cancer is increasing in Australia due partly to an ageing population and an increasing prevalence of obesity (a known risk factor for the disease).²
- There is currently no effective screening for early detection of endometrial cancer.
- The most common presenting symptom is unusual vaginal bleeding, especially bleeding between menstrual periods or after menopause.
- The five-year relative survival rate for women diagnosed with endometrial cancer in 1998-2004 is 82 per cent.¹
- It is estimated that in 2004 there were 6,665 women alive who had been diagnosed with endometrial cancer in the previous 5 years.¹
- The risk of endometrial cancer increases with age, with 90 per cent of cases diagnosed in women 50 years and over.³ The average age of diagnosis is 64 years.¹
- Risk factors include: history of chronic anovulation, poly cystic ovary syndrome associated with anovulation, nulliparity, strong family history of endometrial cancer or colon cancer (Lynch syndrome), exposure to tamoxifen, exposure to unopposed oestrogen, obesity (often with diabetes and hypertension).

References

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare & Australasian Association of Cancer Registries 2010. Cancer in Australia: an overview, 2010. Cancer series no. 60. Cat. no. CAN 56. Canberra: AIHW.
2. Australian National Endometrial Cancer Study www.anecs.org.au accessed June 2011
3. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2010. ACIM (Australian Cancer Incidence and Mortality) Books. AIHW: Canberra

From July 2011, National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC) will amalgamate with Cancer Australia to form a single national agency, Cancer Australia, to provide leadership in cancer control and improve outcomes for Australians affected by cancer.