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### **Symptoms and signs of ovarian cancer in women presenting to primary care**

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**Background & Aim:** Ovarian cancer (OC) is the seventh most common cancer in women worldwide. OC is a disease with a poor prognosis due to late stage diagnosis. In Denmark, 74% are diagnosed in FIGO stages III- IV with a 5-year survival of 40% and 20%, respectively, compared to 85% in FIGO stage I. Thus, early diagnosis is crucial, and failure to recognise early symptoms may result in stage progression. We aim to identify symptoms, in particular early-stage symptoms, and signs of OC presented in primary care.

**Method:** A narrative literature review of studies on symptoms of OC in primary care will be conducted. Cohort and case-control studies with data on types of symptoms and symptom complexes will be included together with information on positive likelihood ratio and/or positive predictive value. Studies that do not use histopathology to confirm OC diagnosis and studies of patients with known OC will be excluded.

**Results:** Studies show that 95% of women with OC have symptoms. These symptoms are frequently reported in early-stage disease although they may not be of gynaecological nature. Early-stage OC typically presents with non-specific and vague symptoms that may mimic more frequent non-malignant conditions, e.g. irritable bowel syndrome. The literature review is ongoing, and detailed results will be presented.

**Conclusions:** The vagueness of the symptoms associated with OC in primary care has important clinical implications for the primary care physicians in terms of when to offer further diagnostics; transvaginal ultrasound. This study will provide an evidence base for selection of women for investigation.