



## NCCN QUICK GUIDE™

# Uterine Cancer

## Endometrial Cancer | Uterine Sarcoma

This NCCN QUICK GUIDE™ sheet summarizes key points from the complete [NCCN Guidelines for Patients®: Uterine Cancer](#). These guidelines explain which tests and treatments are recommended by experts in cancer. To view and download the guidelines, visit [NCCN.org/patients](http://NCCN.org/patients) or, to order printed copies, visit [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

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### What is uterine cancer?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Uterine cancer is cancer that starts in the uterus, or womb.</li> <li>■ There are two main types of uterine cancer: endometrial cancer and uterine sarcoma.</li> <li>■ Endometrial cancer is common and is often found before it has spread from the uterus.</li> <li>■ Uterine sarcoma is rarer and more aggressive than endometrial cancer.</li> </ul>	<b>7</b>
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### How is uterine cancer detected?

There is no screening test for endometrial cancer. The most common sign is vaginal bleeding after menopause. Uterine sarcoma is often found after a hysterectomy.	<b>11</b>
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### How do doctors give uterine cancer a stage?

<p>The following key pieces of information are used to stage uterine cancer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The extent or size of the tumor</li> <li>■ Whether any lymph nodes have cancer</li> <li>■ Whether the cancer has spread to other parts of the body (metastasized)</li> </ul>	<b>15</b>
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### What are some tests that I might have?

<b>Blood tests</b>	In addition to routine bloodwork, some women will have their blood tested for a substance called CA-125. This can help determine whether cancer has spread beyond the uterus and whether treatment is working.	<b>20</b>
<b>Imaging tests</b>	Imaging tests used for uterine cancer may include chest x-ray, CT (computed tomography), and MRI (magnetic resonance imaging).	<b>23</b>
<b>Tumor marker testing</b>	The tumor removed during surgery can be tested for markers that make it unique. DNA mismatch repair testing and estrogen receptor testing are tumor marker tests used for uterine cancer. Not all women will have both.	<b>26</b>



## How is endometrial cancer treated?

<b>Surgery</b>	Surgery to remove the uterus, the ovaries and the fallopian tubes is the best way to treat uterine cancer. These surgeries are called <i>total hysterectomy</i> and <i>bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy</i> .	<a href="#">29</a>
<b>Radiation therapy</b>	Radiation therapy uses high-energy rays to kill cancer cells or stop new cancer cells from being made. Radiation therapy for uterine cancer may be external, internal (brachytherapy), or intra-operative.	<a href="#">30</a>
<b>Chemotherapy</b>	Chemotherapy is treatment with drugs that travel through the bloodstream to kill cancer cells throughout the body.	<a href="#">32</a>
<b>Hormone therapy</b>	Hormones (estrogen and/or progesterone) can help some cancers grow. Drugs can be used to reduce the level of hormones in the body.	<a href="#">34</a>
<b>Other treatments</b>	Treatment with targeted therapy or immunotherapy may be an option for some patients with advanced endometrial cancer, or whose cancer has come back after treatment with chemotherapy.	<a href="#">35</a>

## How do I decide between treatment options?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Don't be shy about asking your doctors questions. They are there to help.</li> <li>■ Getting a second opinion is encouraged. Even doctors get second opinions!</li> <li>■ Support groups can be helpful. You can learn a lot from others with uterine cancer.</li> <li>■ Take the time to compare the pros and cons of treatment options.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">62</a>
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