

Multidisciplinary Gynecologic Cancer Program



An Integrated Approach to Gynecologic Cancer Care

Temple University Hospital offers comprehensive care for women who have been diagnosed with cancer of the reproductive organs – the cervix, ovaries, uterus, tubes, vagina and vulva, as well as cancers of abnormal pregnancies (known as trophoblastic tumors).

Temple’s multidisciplinary gynecologic cancer team includes board-certified gynecologic oncologists; radiation oncologists; radiologists; pathologists; specially trained anesthesiologists; and oncology-certified nurses working together to coordinate all aspects of treatment. The result is high-quality, compassionate care for every patient.



Advanced Diagnostic Capabilities

Temple University Hospital has the tools to confirm a diagnosis of gynecologic cancer after initial testing by a patient’s family physician or gynecologist. The suspected type of cancer determines the specific tests needed to develop a treatment plan that is customized for each patient. Tests offered at Temple include:

- **Colposcopy** – When a PAP test returns an abnormal result, Temple specialists may perform a colposcopy. This procedure uses an instrument with a magnifying lens and a light to more closely examine the cervix and vagina. Temple gynecologic surgeons are proficient in the treatment of cervical cancer at all stages
Temple is a regional referral center for colposcopy, with special capabilities in performing the procedure even during pregnancy
- **Imaging** – Sophisticated imaging tools such as computed tomography (CT) scans, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomography (PET), and ultrasound are often used to detect the presence of a solid mass and, if malignant, whether the cancer has spread to other sites. They are also used in treatment planning
- **Biopsy** – Biopsies, which remove a sample of tissue for evaluation, often are used to confirm the presence of a gynecologic cancer. Temple’s multidisciplinary team includes a pathologist experienced in identifying and classifying gynecologic cancers

Personalized Treatments for Every Patient

Temple University Hospital offers a wide range of treatment options for women with gynecologic cancer. These include *laparoscopic and robotic procedures* that may offer a faster, less painful recovery. Temple also provides patients with access to clinical trials that are testing new treatments.

Treatment of a gynecologic cancer may involve surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, molecular targeted therapies, or a combination of these. The exact treatment each patient receives depends on several factors, including, in part, the type of cancer, its size and stage, its location, and the patient's overall health.

Temple's multidisciplinary gynecologic cancer team meets weekly to review all patient cases and the treatments that are being pursued.

Treatment Options:

Surgery

Surgical removal is often the preferred treatment for a gynecologic cancer. Earlier surgical techniques involved a large open incision, significant scarring and a long recovery time. Temple offers a wide range of laparoscopic and robotic surgery options that allow surgeons to operate through small incisions that may offer patients less pain, a shorter hospital stay and a quicker return to normal activities.

Temple's gynecologic surgical team includes a fellowship-trained surgeon who specializes in gynecologic oncology and robotic surgery. Complementing the surgical team is the post-operative care that patients receive at Temple University Hospital. Here, experienced oncology-certified nurses provide high-quality, compassionate care following surgery.

Chemotherapy

Temple offers chemotherapy, hormonal therapies, and targeted therapies for patients at all stages of disease. Chemotherapy is administered by a specially-trained gynecologic oncologist. It may be dispensed before surgery to shrink the tumor while improving the patient's overall health, after surgery, or in combination with radiation therapy.

Radiation Therapy

Temple University Hospital has one of the most advanced radiation therapy programs in the region. Its skilled radiation oncologists have access to technology that targets the tumor and minimizes the exposure to nearby healthy tissue, including:

- Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT). This external-beam treatment is performed on an outpatient basis and is usually done five days a week for several weeks
- Temple also offers brachytherapy for gynecologic cancers. This technique places radioactive "seeds" inside or adjacent to a tumor. Using this method, a higher dose of radiation can be given directly to the tumor while reducing the dosage to the surrounding organs such as the bladder, rectum and colon

Clinical Trials

Temple participates in Gynecologic Oncology Group clinical trials, including those for:

- Treatment of endometrial cancer
- Chemotherapy-sensitive ovarian cancer
- High-risk cervical cancer following radical hysterectomy
- Recurrent ovarian stromal tumors (a rare type of ovarian cancer)

Support Services

From diagnosis to treatment to recovery, a patient's fight against gynecologic cancer can be challenging. The anxiety that may come with managing this disease often calls for support.

The Temple University Hospital Cancer Center provides patients with the resources they need to meet the psychological, social and physical challenges related to gynecologic cancer and its treatment.

Support services include:

- **Psychosocial support** – Social workers and other support staff help patients and families with the non-medical effects of cancer, including community resource referral, coping with illness, family and relationship concerns, employment issues, and financial or insurance needs
- **Nutritional counseling** –Registered dietitians help patients understand and meet their nutritional needs during and after treatment
- Information about **transportation assistance** for appointments
- **An American Cancer Society Patient Navigator** at the Temple Cancer Center is available to meet with patients and families and provide information on ACS services

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TEMPLE'S
GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY PROGRAM, CALL
1-800-TEMPLE MED (836-7536)