



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

According to the National Institutes of Health, ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women, and is the leading cause of death from gynecologic cancers. While the cause of ovarian cancer is unknown, it is known that the disease is more common in industrialized nations.

Unfortunately, because the symptoms can be vague or non-specific, they often may be attributed to more common conditions, thereby sometimes complicating and preventing or delaying early diagnosis. Such symptoms include a sense of pelvic heaviness, vague lower abdominal discomfort, vaginal bleeding, weight gain or loss, abnormal menstrual cycles, increased girth, unexplained worsening back pain, nausea and vomiting.

Ovarian cancer risk is affected by different factors. A woman has a lower risk for ovarian cancer the more children she has, and the earlier her age at the time of her first pregnancy. Pregnancy, breastfeeding and hormonal contraceptive methods may decrease a woman's risk. In contrast, patients with a personal history of breast cancer may have an elevated risk. In addition, a strong family history of other cancers confers a higher risk for developing ovarian cancer.

In an effort to save lives, the month of September has been designated for a public awareness campaign.

At this time, therefore, I encourage all in the Lone Star State to participate in and support this effort. Increasing our awareness of ovarian cancer and how to fight it through prevention, early detection and effective treatment options will save lives. The future begins today, and we can continue to make a difference.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim September 2005,

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
26th day of August, 2005.


Governor of Texas

