

The role of cytoreductive surgery in advanced-stage ovarian cancer: a systematic review.

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ABSTRACT

It has already been proven that ovarian cancer is the sixth most common cancer among women, and it is considered the leading cause of death by gynecologic cancer in developed countries. This article is a literature review based on the use of cytoreductive surgery matched with adjuvant chemotherapy in advanced-stage ovarian cancer. According to the statistics, the difficulty of obtaining an early diagnosis results in a delay in the disease treatment and as a consequence, in many cases, ovarian cancer is still diagnosed in the advanced stage of the disease. Primary surgery is performed, in addition to diagnosis and staging, to achieve optimal cytoreduction. The purpose of this article is to review the different surgical approaches in the management of epithelial ovarian cancer, specifically the high-stage disease, with a special concentration on the most recent therapeutic additions to our current knowledge, such as hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy and new therapeutic drugs. Surgical treatment still plays a pivotal role in the management of advanced-stage ovarian cancer. Complete cytoreduction continues to be, when feasible, the objective to be attempted in the surgical treatment of advanced ovarian cancer. Obviously, the success of the operation depends on numerous factors, including patient selection, the locations of tumors, and surgeon expertise. To offer patients the best possible outcome with the least accompanying morbidity, strong consideration should be given to the referral of such patients to expert care centers for primary surgery, because it may be the best means currently available for improving overall survival.