

**PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## **World Gynaecologic Oncology Awareness Day(World GO Day).**

On September 20, 2021, doctors and patients unite with the Irish Network for Gynaecological Oncology to raise awareness about gynaecological cancers.

**20<sup>th</sup> September, 2021** - The time has come to prepare for the **third World GO Day** celebration. Once again, people in more than 25 countries, including thousands of patients and dozens of groups of medical professionals and experts, will together support a single goal- raising awareness of gynaecologic cancers. The day is dedicated to elevating public understanding of gynaecological cancers and highlighting the risk factors, symptoms, early detection and prevention strategies related to the main types of gynaecological cancers that impact women: cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal, and vulvar. Over 1400 gynaecological cancers are diagnosed in Ireland annually ([NCRI 2020 Annual Report](#)), representing over 12% of female cancers. This year, World GO Day will take place Monday, September 20, 2021. This year's message is simple: **Information is power, but communication is the solution!**

The theme for 2021 is communication between patients and doctors, represented by the main event hashtag **#GOforcommunication**.

"Information is power, but communication is the solution. It goes hand in hand with the very short but clear message: Talk to your doctor, do not be afraid to seek information on gynaecological cancers and to have your regular check-ups to prevent cancer. That is why **#GOforprevention** will be the second main hashtag of World GO Day," says Prof. Murat Gultekin, who is the co-chair of the organisation that founded the event, the European Network of Gynaecological Cancer Advocacy Groups (ENGAGe).

In Ireland, in our **#DareToAsk** campaign, we are encouraging patients to ask their doctors those questions they have been too shy or afraid to ask, says Sharon O'Toole, Trinity College Dublin and coordinator of the World GO Day activities on behalf of the Irish Network for Gynaecological Oncology. We will be launching a special podcast in conjunction with the ["the Answers for Cancers podcast"](#) team on World GO Day which will answer many of these questions that have been collated from patients.

## **World GO Day Events**

Planned activities in Ireland this year include an activator pole event with caregivers, health workers, survivors, and supporters organised by EGM Cancer Support. "Our aim is to promote fitness and exercise as well as raising awareness about gynaecological cancers, motivate people to go for preventative screenings, and invite all women to become more informed about cancer signs and symptoms and to talk to their doctors about their health" outlines Jacqueline Daly of EGM Cancer Support.

Awareness is important because an early diagnosis is key for good treatment of gynaecological cancers. We want people to know that having a regular check-up with your gynaecologist should be a priority. Become familiar with the symptoms for each of the gynaecological cancers outlined in the “Inside knowledge” leaflet below. But also, ask the right questions, be open in your communication with your doctor. “Ensure you #JustAsk your doctor about clinical trials as the number of trials for gynaecological cancer patients has expanded in Ireland” explains Dr Dearbhaile Collins, co-chair of the Gynaecological Specific Sub Group in Cancer Trials Ireland ([www.cancertrials.ie](http://www.cancertrials.ie)).

To mark World Gynaecologic Oncology Day, the following buildings have generously agreed to ‘Light Up in Purple’, the colour associated all over the world with Gynaecological cancers – Áras Chontae an Chláir - Clare County Council; City Hall, Cork; Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital, Dublin; Cork ARC Cancer Support; Cork County Hall; Crann Centre, Cork; East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Centre, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway; Kilkenny Castle; Mansion House, Dublin; Millmount, Drogheda; National Concert Hall, Dublin; National University of Ireland, Galway; One Albert Quay, Cork; Pearse Lyons Distillery, Dublin; Purple House Cancer Support, Wicklow; Rock of Cashel, Tipperary; St James’s Hospital, Dublin; The Capitol, Cork; The Convention Centre Dublin, Titanic Belfast and University College Cork.

We encourage people around the world to raise awareness about gynaecological cancers and support patients by wearing something purple or painting their lips or nails purple. Then, share the photos with us using the #GoForPurple hashtag on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter on September 20. Additionally, pictures, and messages will be shared online using the hashtag **#WorldGODay**, to create a global conversation on Gynaecologic Cancers, as well as on the official World Go Day website at [www.worldgoday.org](http://www.worldgoday.org).

The Irish Network for **G**ynaecological **O**ncology is comprised of over 30 of Ireland’s foremost gynaecological cancer campaigners, researchers and patient advocates including; ARC Cancer Support Centres, Dublin, Answers for Cancers podcast team, Breakthrough Cancer Research, Cancer Care West, Cancer Trials Ireland, CERVIVA, Circle of Friends Cancer Support Centre, Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital, Cork ARC Cancer Support, Cork Cancer Care Centre, East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Centre, Emer Casey Foundation, Irish Cancer Society, Irish Society of Gynaecological Oncology Public and Patient Involvement Group, Karen Fenton Ovarian Cancer Fund, Lynch Syndrome Ireland, Marie Keating Foundation, Mater Hospital Dublin, National Cancer Control Programme, National Immunisation Office, National Women’s Council of Ireland, OvaCare, Pink Ladies Cancer Charity, Purple House Cancer Support, Sláinte an Chláir, Sligo Cancer Support Centre, SOCK, St. James’s Hospital Foundation (GynaeCancerCare), Swell Fermanagh Cancer Survivorship Group, Trinity College Dublin, Trinity St James’s Cancer Institute, University College Dublin and 221+ CervicalCheck Patient Support Group.



The Irish organisations are delighted to join the international initiative of ESGO-ENGAGE (European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO) and the European Network of Gynaecological Cancer Advocacy Groups (ENGAGE)) to raise awareness for gynaecologic cancers and calls women in Ireland to **GO for action now** to impact the future – a world without gynaecologic cancers!

**For further information on this initiative contact: Sharon O'Toole**  
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**For more information on World Gynaecologic Oncology Day visit: [www.worldgoday.org](http://www.worldgoday.org)**



# THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT GYNECOLOGIC CANCERS: GET THE *INSIDE KNOWLEDGE!*



## GYNECOLOGIC CANCER SYMPTOMS

### Cervical Cancer

### Ovarian Cancer

### Uterine Cancer

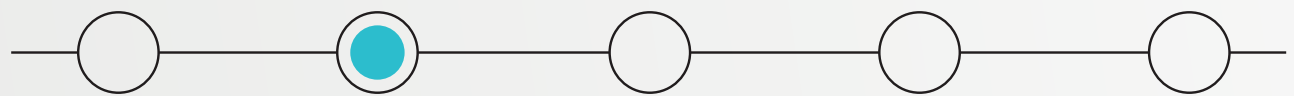
### Vaginal Cancer

### Vulvar Cancer

Abnormal vaginal bleeding or discharge



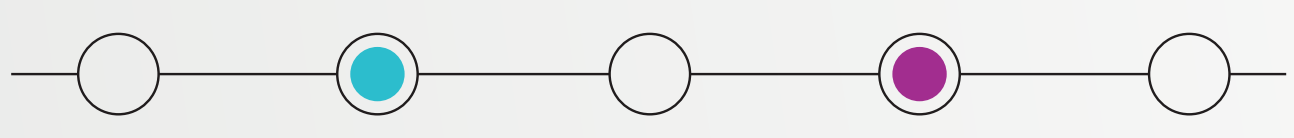
Feeling full too quickly or difficulty eating



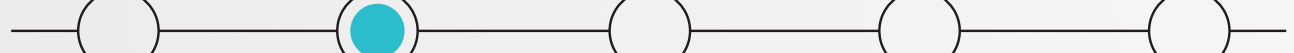
Pelvic pain or pressure



More frequent or urgent need to urinate and/or constipation



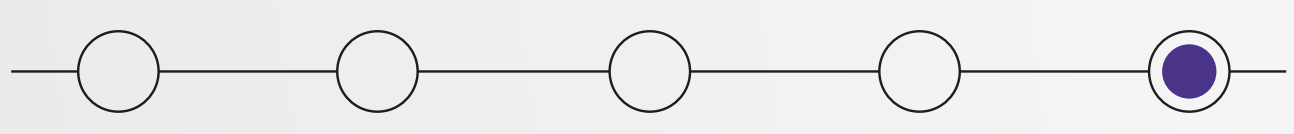
Bloating



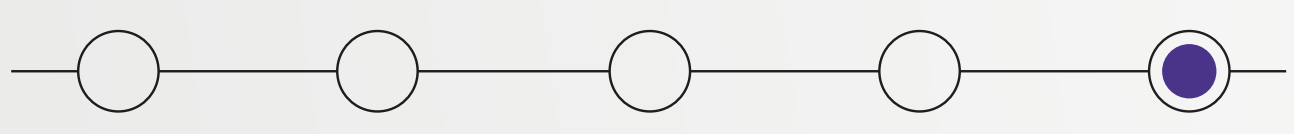
Abdominal or back pain



Itching, burning, pain, or tenderness of the vulva

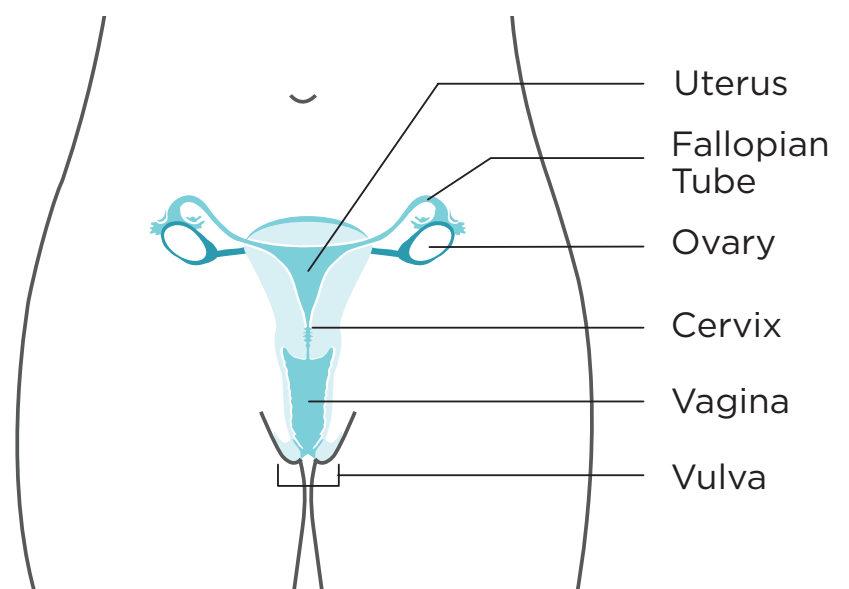


Changes in vulva color or skin, such as a rash, sores, or warts



Gynecologic cancers have warning signs. See your doctor if you have any of these symptoms for two weeks or longer. And if you have vaginal bleeding that's not normal for you, see your doctor right away.

**It may be nothing to worry about, but find out for sure. Get the *Inside Knowledge* about gynecologic cancer!**



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