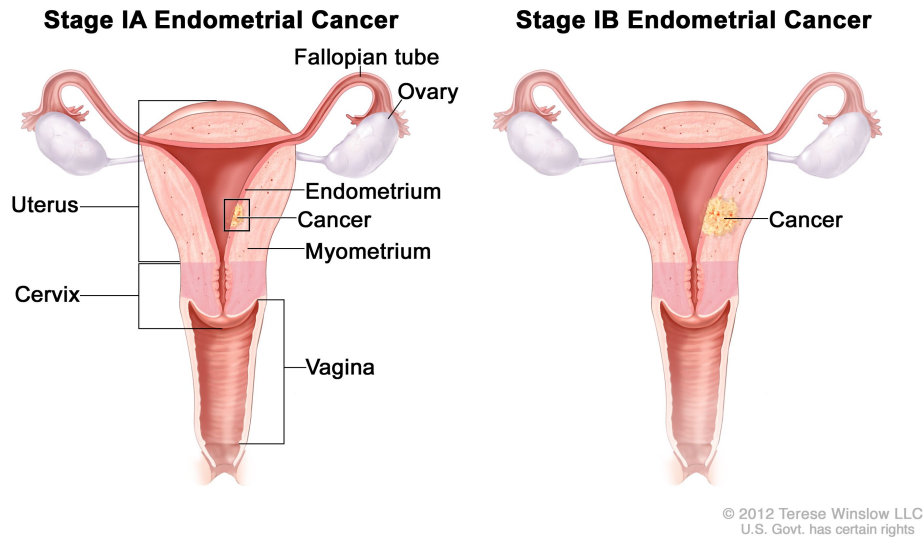


Uterine & Endometrial Cancer: Know the Signs

The **endometrium** is the tissue lining the inside of the uterus. Endometrial cancer begins in that lining and is the most common type of uterine cancer. Uterine sarcoma starts in the muscle or supporting tissue and is different.



Warning signs

- Any bleeding or spotting after menopause
- Bleeding or discharge that is unusual for you
- Bleeding between periods or unusually heavy/prolonged periods
- Pelvic pain or pressure
- Pain during sex or difficult/painful urination

Early detection

There is no standard routine screening test for average-risk people without symptoms. A Pap test screens for cervical cancer and usually does not detect endometrial cancer. Reporting abnormal bleeding promptly matters. Diagnosis may involve ultrasound and requires examination of uterine-lining tissue, often by endometrial biopsy or D&C.

Risk factors

Risk may be higher with older age, obesity, metabolic syndrome, diabetes, PCOS, endometrial hyperplasia, estrogen exposure without enough progesterone, estrogen-only hormone therapy when the uterus is present, tamoxifen, certain reproductive-history factors, family history, and Lynch syndrome. A risk factor does not mean cancer is certain.

Treatment

Treatment depends on type, grade, molecular features, stage, health, and preferences. Options may include surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, hormone therapy, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, or clinical trials. A gynecologic oncologist can explain an individualized plan.

Act promptly: Contact a clinician for any postmenopausal bleeding or new unusual bleeding/discharge. Seek urgent care for very heavy bleeding, fainting, chest pain, shortness of breath, severe weakness, or severe/worsening pain.

Sources: CDC Uterine Cancer; NCI Endometrial Cancer Treatment and Prevention; NCCN Guidelines for Patients: Uterine Cancer. Image: National Cancer Institute. Reviewed September 5, 2026. Educational use only; not medical advice.