

## THE ROLE OF ULTRASONOGRAPHY IN DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN BENIGN AND MALIGNANT OVARIAN TUMORS IN POSTMENOPAUSAL WOMEN

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Malignant ovarian tumors occur at all ages, with the total incidence dramatically increasing with age. Ovarian cancer survival rate depends on the stage at which the disease is detected.

The aim of this study was to determine sensitivity, specificity and predictive values of the tests for pre-operative monitoring of the state of ovarian tumors in postmenopausal women and to assess possible malignant potential and examine the correlation of clinical finding and significance of ultrasonography in differentiating benign from malignant ovarian tumors.

The research is defined by the models of prospective-retrospective study, involving 60 postmenopausal women diagnosed with ovarian tumors.

The following medical tests and examinations were performed for all patients: anamnestic analysis of the medical records (history of the disease with the data on age, parity, duration of menopause, use of oral contraceptives, symptoms, and small pelvis sonography).

There is an age difference between the women with benign ovarian tumors and those with malignant ones. Women with benign tumors had 1.96 children on the average, compared to the average of 1.40 children of women with malignant ovarian tumors. Duration of oral contraceptive use in women with benign changes was 2.84 years on the average and 1.27 years was the average of women with a malignant process, showing a high statistical significance of 5%. Among the subjects with benign tumors, the dominant tumor structure was cystic, as opposed to mixed-type tumors in those with malignancies. Tumor location is, with a high statistical significance, more often bilateral in subjects with histopathologically confirmed malignant tumors, while it is predominantly unilateral in benign tumors. Tumor size is a reliable factor in differentiating benign from malignant ovarian tumors. The wall thickness of benign tumors is higher in relation to that in malignant ones. The presence of free fluid in the pouch of Douglas is rare in benign ovarian tumors, while it is quite frequent in malignant ones.

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