OVARIAN CANCER: EPIDEMIOLOGY AND RISK FACTORS IN CENTRAL SUDAN.

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Ovarian cancer is a common disease with usually detrimental effects on affected women. This study was designed to highlight some epidemiological and risk factors of ovarian cancer of Sudanese women diagnosed as having ovarian malignancy. It is retrospective descriptive cross-sectional study carried out at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Wad Medani, conducted during the period from January 2003 to December 2008.

Methods:
Data was collected by secondary data; it includes demographic data, fertility status, menopausal status, marital status, parity, family history of ovarian malignancy, history of Contraception pills (CP) and estimation of the Body Mass Index (BMI) using the body weight and height.

Results:
age range for all 164 cases is between 14-85 years with a mean of 50 years. Median age is 50 years old. Married women are 75% from total study population, 82% of them are unemployed. Two third of cases were either have no children or low parity (> 4) and no woman gave history of ovarian cancer in her family. Majority of women (86%) have normal body mass index and none of them use hormonal replacement therapy.

Conclusion:
Ovarian malignancies tend to occur in younger age, without significant positive family history. Disease is common among nulliparous and women with low parity status. We need more studies to determine the exact incidence, potential risk factors and causes of young age affection.