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Ovarian cancer screening shows promise in study



Researchers may finally be closing in on a way to screen healthy women for ovarian cancer — a disease that rarely shows symptoms until it's too late to cure.

A simple blood test followed by ultrasound exams as needed found deadly tumors before they caused symptoms

Researchers **have been testing CA-125**, a protein in the blood that is high in many but not all women with ovarian cancer.

The new study tested it as a first step for screening 3,252 women, ages 50 to 74, with no strong family history of breast or ovarian cancer. All had a baseline test and were grouped as low, medium or high risk based on their initial **CA-125 levels** and how much those levels changed over time.

The low risk group repeated the blood test in a year. The middle group got another test in three months.

The real test, though, is whether it saves lives — what the study of 200,000 women in the United Kingdom will show.

Dianne Klefstad, 61, of Houston, is betting it will. She took part in the U.S. study, and her tumor was found after her fourth blood test.

When doctors said she had cancer, "I couldn't believe it. I had no symptoms," she said. The screening "saved my life, I think."

Talk to your Doctor a simple blood sample can be analyzed in a our lab to find out level of CA-125