

# Ovarian cancer mutation test advances medicine

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## Ovarian cancer diagnosis will be made on about 22,280 women in 2017 and about 14,240 women will die

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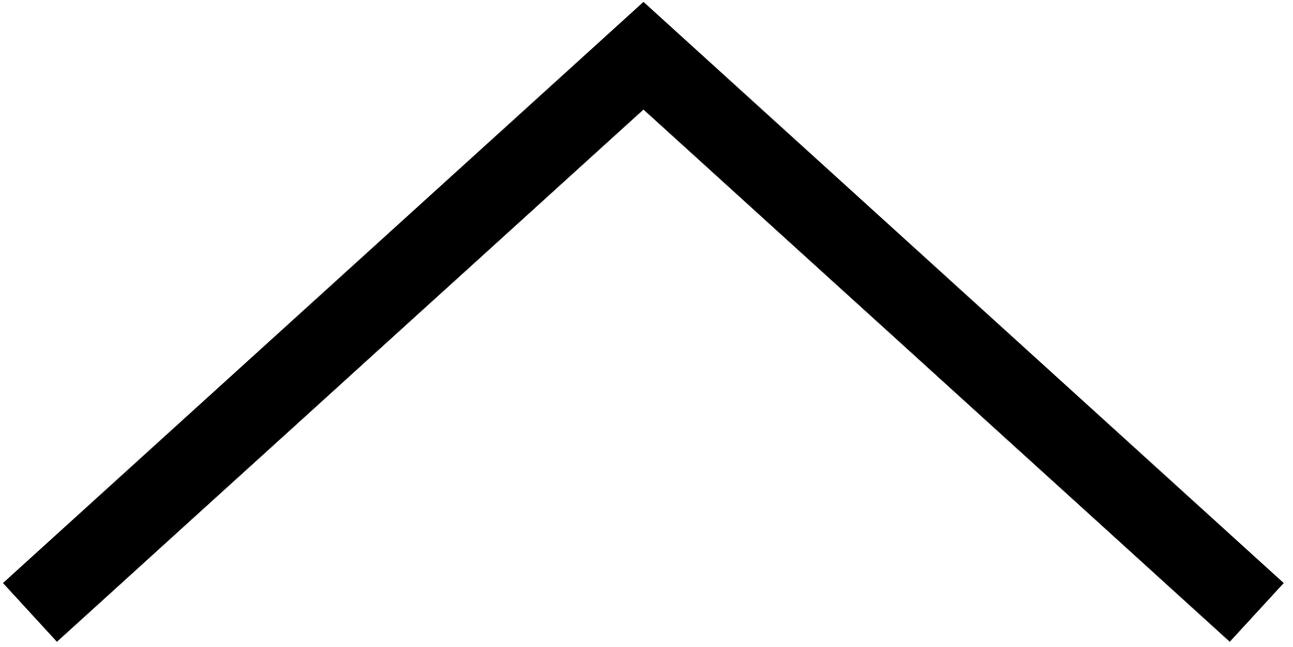
FDA approves new ovarian cancer drug - LA Times - latimes.com

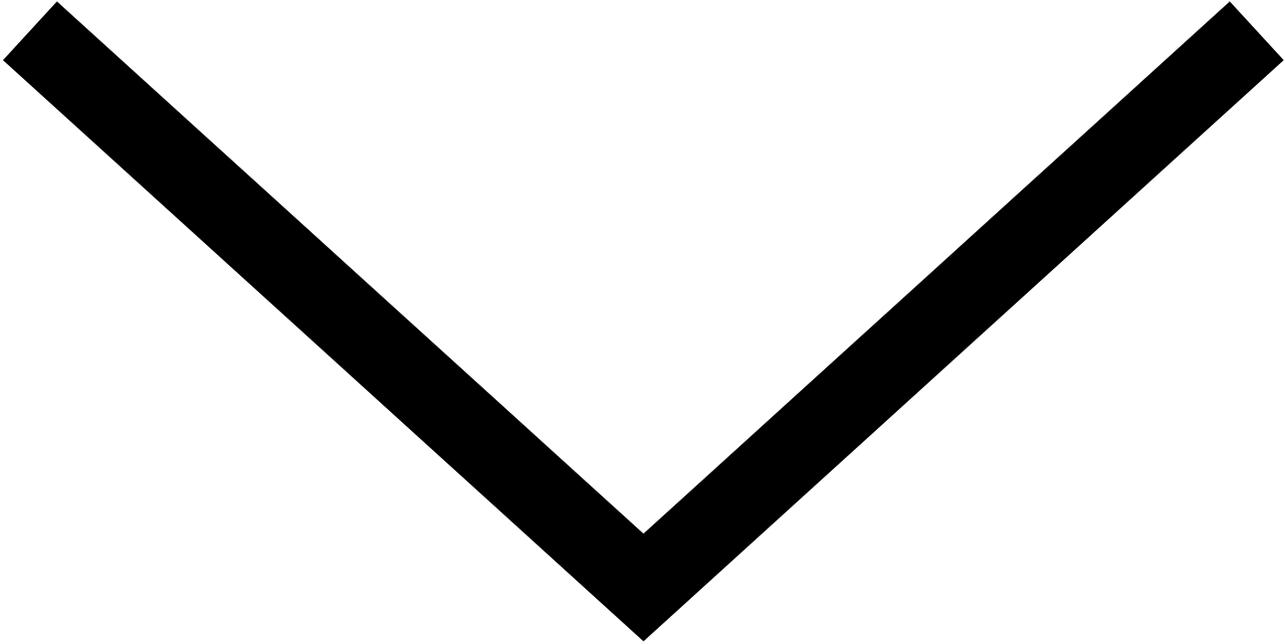


**[Diana Rangaves](#)**

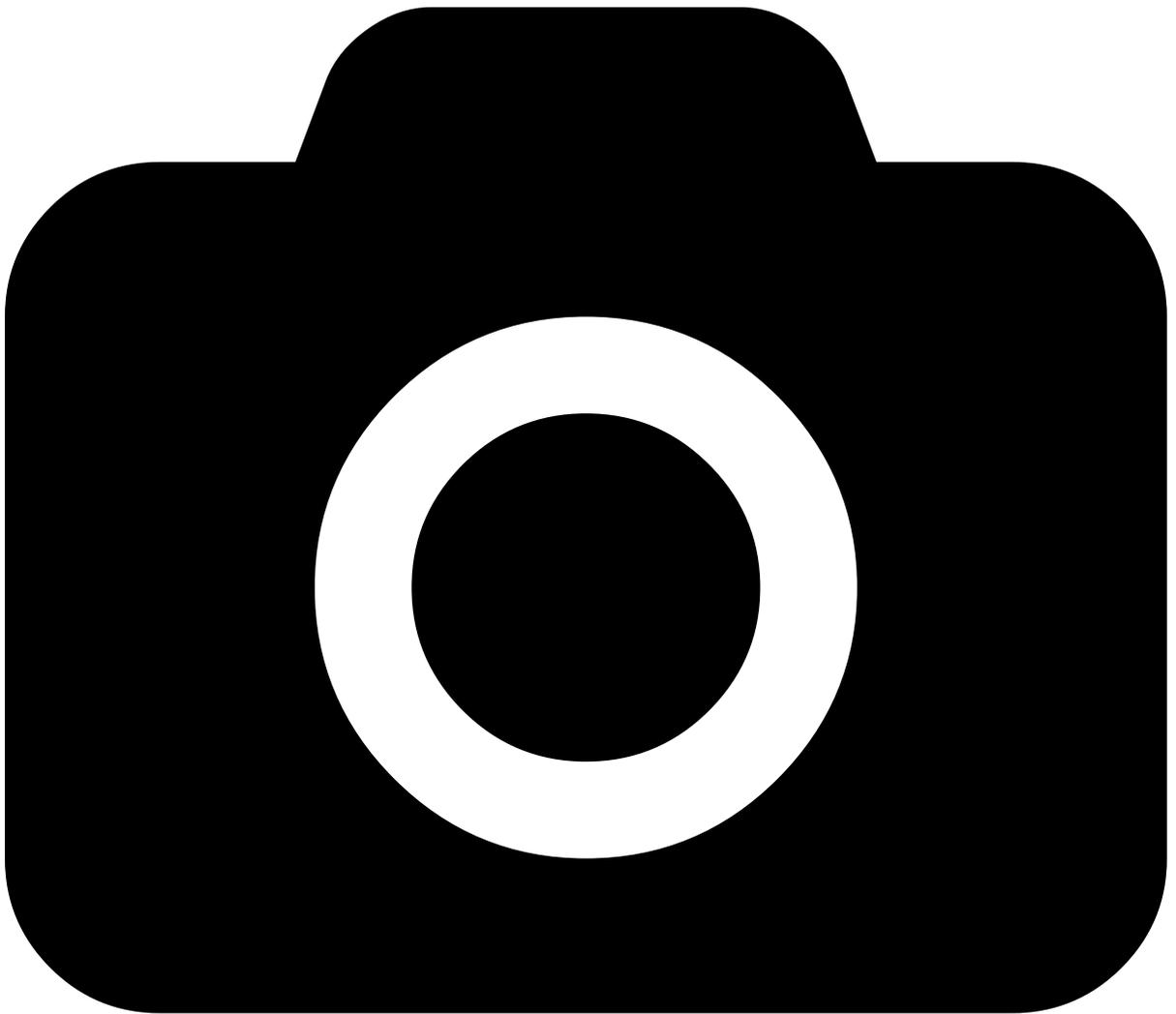
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The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** approved an ovarian cancer test. This product is designed to detect for the BRCA **genetic mutation**. One in four women has this mutation, whose presence can help predict a successful response to chemotherapy.

## Discern

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Identifying this component rapidly is crucial when time and treatment choices mean survival in women with advanced **ovarian cancer**. This approval comes after a multiple years capstone for the product **FoundationFocus CDxBRCA** by Foundation Medicine in partnership with *Clovis Oncology*.

## Mutations

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Up until now, clinicians were only able to test for those BRCA **genetic mutations** that are inherited.

This expands the field by finding the mutations that develop over a lifetime, roughly 50% of the total. Women who test positive for the BRCA genetic mutation may be candidates for treatment with Rubraca™ (rucaparib). This **cancer medication** is highly specific with more women benefitting from a positive outcome.

## Rubraca™ chemotherapy

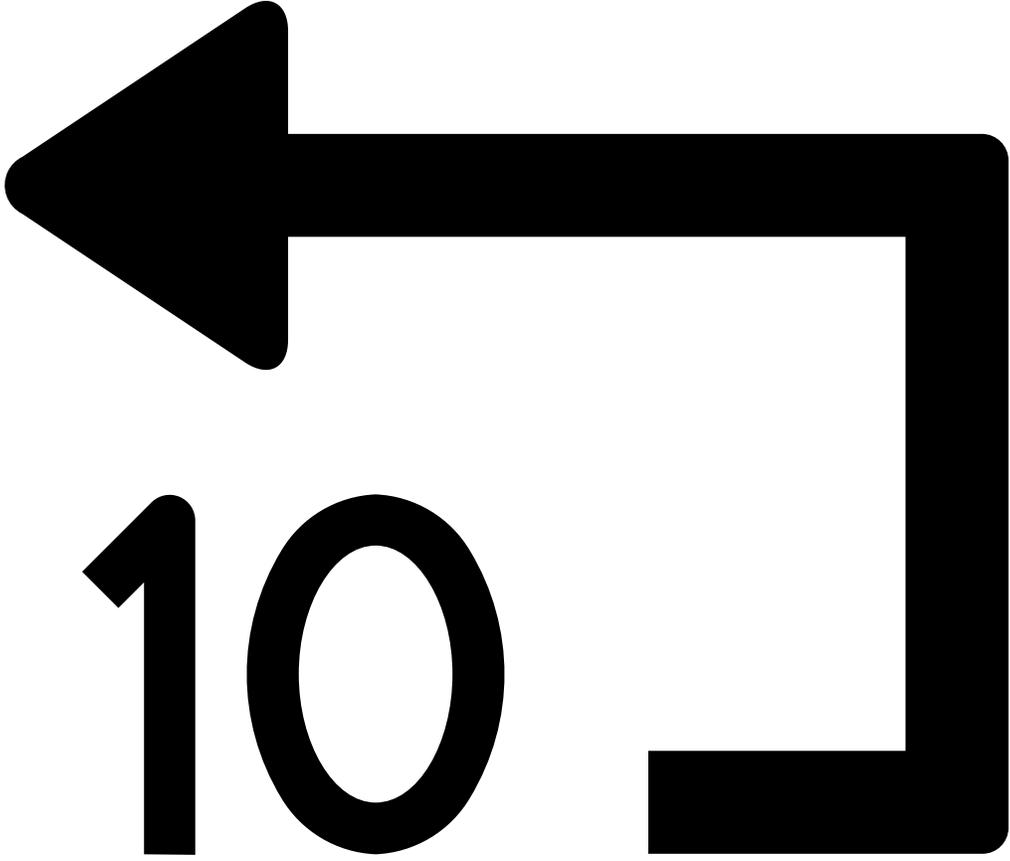
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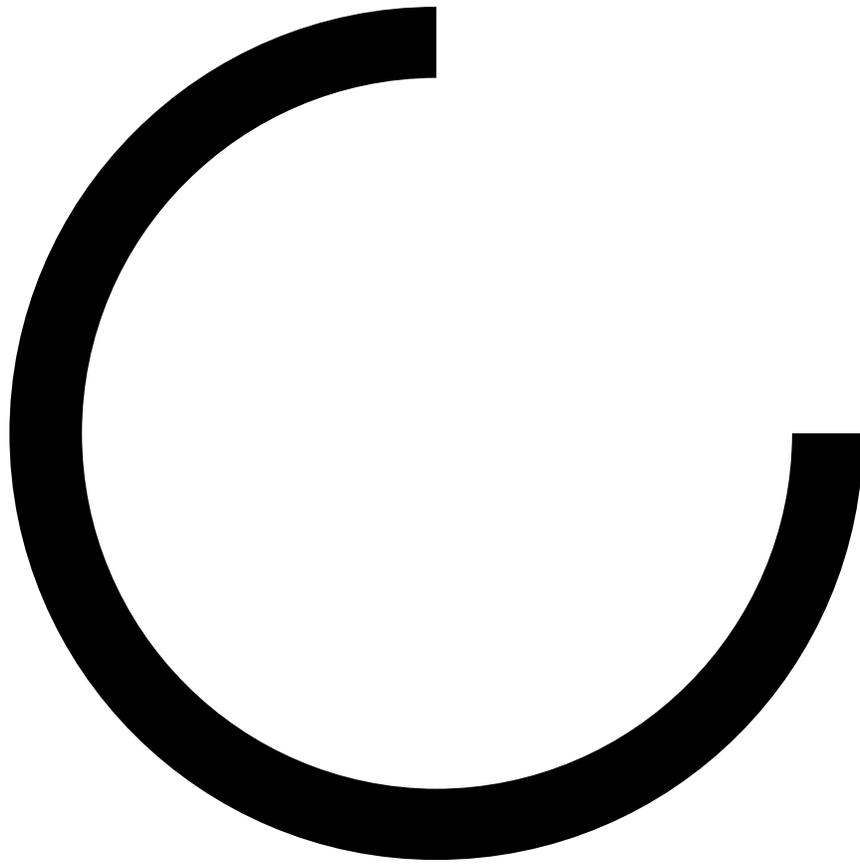
Rubraca™ is manufactured by Clovis Oncology. It is considered a single therapy agent the treatment of advanced **ovarian cancer** in women with the BRCA **genetic mutation** that has failed two or more previous chemotherapy agents. Serious side effects include bone marrow problems and low blood cell counts.

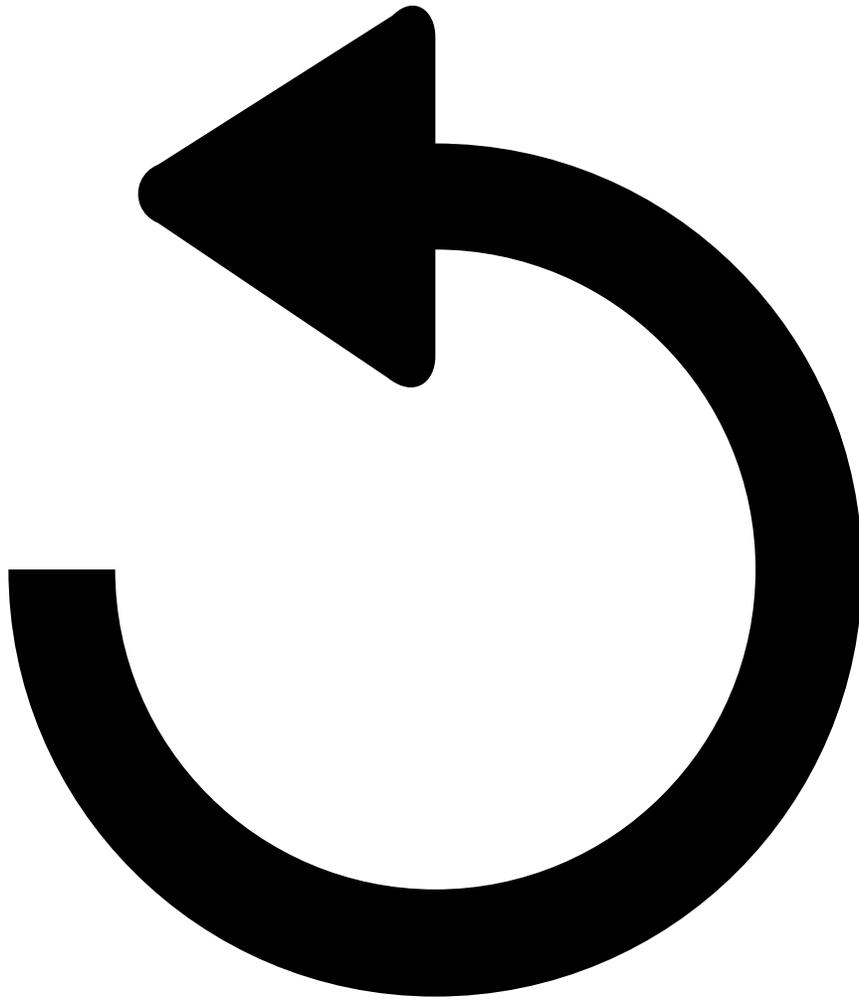
## Deaths

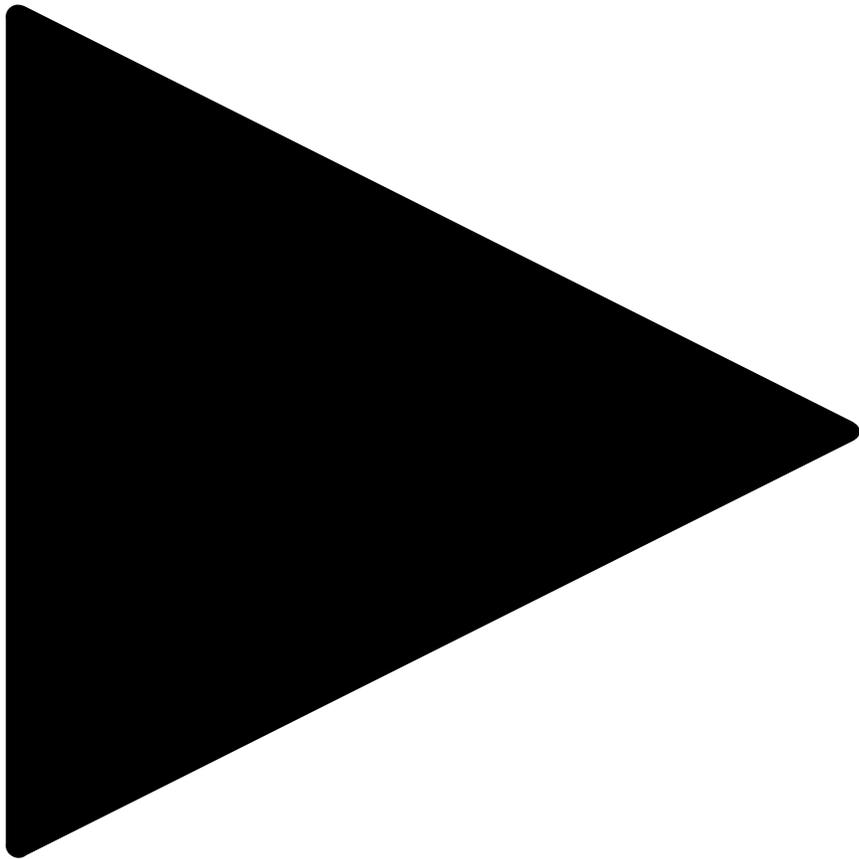
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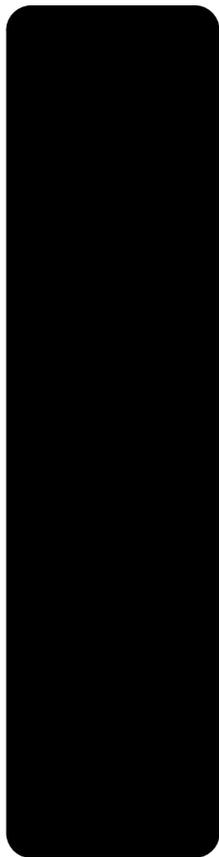
The **fifth** leading cause of cancer **deaths** in women, this **cancer's** overall lifetime occurrence is 1 in 75, with the risk of death being about 1 in 100. **Age** and **ethnicity** are not a boundary as more than half of cases happen in white women between 55-63 years of age.

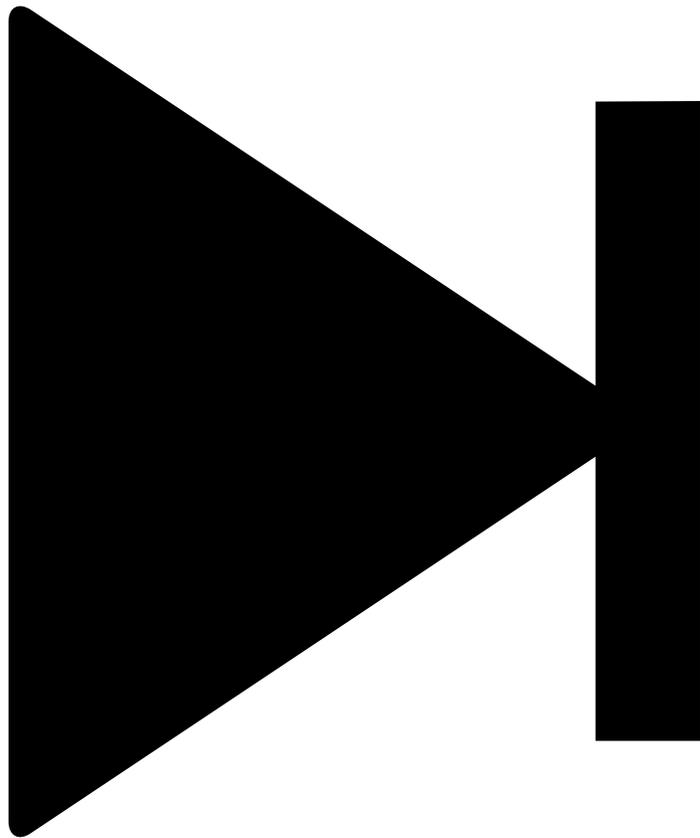












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## Survival

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The **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)** and Prevention's National Program of Cancer Registries coordinate efforts in The Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) to track the nation's population. The outcome is that overall **cancer survival** is at a much lower rate. Cancers, other than ovarian, have shown a greater decline in deaths. This is due in part to early discovery and better treatments. By contrast, **ovarian cancer deaths** have reduced only slightly in the past forty years.

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