



TESTING

X-RAYS

- Small amounts of radiation used to take pictures of organs and tissues inside body
- Tumors change radiation absorption rates
- Can show cancer presence, growth or response to treatment

COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT)

- Large machine with a tunnel; takes picture of the inside of the body
- Can show cancer presence, growth or response to treatment
- Fast & painless; to show one structure from another a physician may order contrast dye; given with a small needle in hand or arm

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI)

- Radio waves and magnets take pictures of the inside of the body
- Large machine with narrow tunnel; loud and noisy; patient screened
- Can show cancer presence, growth or response to treatment
- Can involve a contrast dye
- Takes 30-60 minutes or longer to complete

POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY (PET)

- Radio waves and magnets take pictures of the inside of the body
- Large machine with narrow tunnel; loud and noisy; patient screened
- Can show cancer presence, growth or response to treatment
- Can involve a contrast dye
- Takes 30-60 minutes or longer to complete

ULTRASOUND (US)

- Use of sound waves to produce pictures of the inside of the body
- Shows size, shape, location of body parts and nearby tissues
- Can show masses and whether mass is solid or filled with fluid
- Physician may order a trans-vaginal US in the diagnosis of ovarian CA

GASTRIC INTESTINAL (GI) EVALUATION

- Any test that looks at the rectum, large and small bowel & stomach for cancer
- Most definitive tests are Colonoscopy and/or endoscopy: use of scope to view and/or biopsy the inside the gastrointestinal tract
- Other common but less invasive tests are X-rays, CT and PET scans

BLOOD TESTS

- Genetic Testing – checks family history
- CA-125 – tumor marker test for ovarian cancer
- CBC – complete blood count (e.g. hemoglobin, platelets)
- Chemistry profile – electrolytes (e.g. sodium, potassium)
- Liver function (e.g. enzymes)

TISSUE BIOPSY

- Sample of tissue removed from body often during surgery
- Can be done before surgery; tissue is removed with a very fine needle
- Sent to a pathology lab for testing