Ovarian cancer is responsible for more deaths per year than all other gynecologic cancers combined. The American Cancer Society (2015) estimated that 21,290 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and 14,180 women are expected to die from ovarian cancer in 2015. In the United States, the average five-year survival rate is 35% when diagnosed at stage IIIc, which accounts for 75% of initial diagnoses (American Cancer Society, 2015). Women diagnosed at an early stage have a higher five-year survival rate; however, no accepted, reliable screening test exists, and only 15% of women with ovarian cancer are diagnosed at an early stage (Gajjar, Ogden, Mujahid, & Razvi, 2012; Jayde & Boughton, 2012).

Ovarian cancer has an insidious onset, and signs and symptoms are vague and nonspecific. Symptoms include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, frequent urination, and early satiation or difficulty eating (Goff, Mandel, Melancon, & Muntz, 2004). Women associate these symptoms with a variety of everyday conditions and often do not seek medical care (Cooper, Polonec, Stewart, & Gelb, 2013). This results in the delay of diagnosis, and most patients present with advanced disease (Luce, 2015).