At a Glance

- Women with optimal surgical debulking or a small-volume residual tumor less than 1 cm are most likely to benefit from intraperitoneal (IP) chemotherapy.
- When administered into the peritoneal cavity, cisplatin or carboplatin and paclitaxel have been found to have higher concentrations and longer drug half-lives.
- Nursing assessment, patient teaching, and symptom management facilitate completion of IP chemotherapy and can increase overall survival in women with ovarian cancer.

Ovarian Cancer Treatment

After ovarian cancer is diagnosed, treatment usually begins with tissue confirmation and surgery. Optimal surgical debulking is an important intervention because the amount of tumor remaining after surgery has a direct relationship to increased length of survival; as a result, the goal is to leave minimal (residual tumor less than 1 cm) to no residual disease (Bristow, 2004).