

## OVARIAN NEOPLASMS IN PEDIATRIC AGE

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**O**varian neoplasms, although rare, are the most common gynecological tumors in the pediatric population. Few studies exist in the literature, demonstrating that the distribution of ovarian tumors histology in pediatric patients is quite different compared to adult age, with germ cell tumors and serous/mucinous surface epithelial neoplasms accounting for the majority of pathologic types. Although benign neoplasms greatly outnumber malignant ones it is critical to determine the possibility of malignancy at an early stage by multimodal diagnostic methods. Germ cell neoplasms are the most common, constituting nearly 80% of all ovarian tumors in the pediatric population. About teratomas the main criticisms concern the grading of immaturity and the identification of microfoci of malignant tumors. Tumors as dysgerminoma and malignant mixed germ cell tumors are

typical of prepubertal age and generally don't present diagnostic difficulty: immunohistochemistry may be useful for differential diagnosis. Epithelial neoplasms are uncommon in pediatric age accounting for about 15%, the most common type encountered being benign cystadenoma, followed by borderline tumors. The sex-cord stromal, for their rarity, can create diagnostic difficulties and may require immunohistochemical stains for differential diagnosis. Since today few attempts have been made to analyze the whole spectrum of ovarian neoplastic pathology in children and treatment guidelines dedicated to children are still not established. So it is very important to expand the knowledge of these rare tumors in order to allow the most appropriate therapeutic decisions.

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