

Mayo Clinic Medical Edge

Beating Ovarian Cancer - Twice

Intro: “You have ovarian cancer.” Those are words that are tough to hear. But according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 20-thousand women in the U.S. hear that diagnosis each year. Most of them are over age 60. But the woman you’re about to meet was diagnosed very young – in her 30’s. This is her story: one of inspiration and triumph.

Video

Audio

TRT 1:56	In 2004, Cindy Weiss’ doctor told her something no one wants to hear.
	This test is positive, nothing made sense.
	Ovarian cancer.
Cindy Weiss Cancer survivor	It really wasn't the cancer diagnosis that caught me. It was the moment after he said you have stage 4 ovarian cancer and you need an immediate hysterectomy, radiation and chemotherapy, and I just went, hmm. So I don't have kids yet. I'm not married, and I have always wanted to be a mom.
	Cindy endured the treatment, and was cancer free for almost two years. Then Cindy says she just didn't feel right. The cancer had come back.
Matthew Robertson, M.D. Mayo Clinic Obstetrics & Gynecolog	Ovarian cancer has been called the silent killer, and the reason for that is the initial symptoms, if you will, may be very vague and nonspecific,
Vivien Williams Mayo Clinic	Dr. Matthew Robertson says because symptoms can be vague, abdominal blotting maybe a stomach ache, some women figure it's something else and don't get diagnosed until the cancer has spread. But the good news is that treatment keeps getting better.
	we're learning more and more about what genetic aberrations, what faults drive the progression of cancer and lead

	to recurrences. The more we learn, we're identifying new targets. We -- we can hopefully develop drugs to attack and continue to improve survival rates.
	It's been five years since Cindy's second diagnosis.
	It's a great milestone.
	And, sure, she thinks about it.
	It happened once and it came back again. Will it come back a third time?
	But now Cindy's cancer-free, and her main focus is on life. A year after her second diagnosis Cindy married her long-time beau, David, and shortly after that they adopted Charlotte.
	I have my husband. I have my daughter. I have my family.
	For Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams

Anchor tag:

Cindy, like most ovarian cancer patient, has to have tests done every three to six months to make sure she remains cancer free. She says it's important for women to talk to their doctors, like she did, if they feel something is wrong. She says getting in early can help save your life.

For more information, on symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of ovarian cancer, visit our website at ... [STATIONS: Per the licensing agreement, please provide a link from your station's website to <http://www.MayoClinic.org> or voice tag "MayoClinic.org" for more information.]