

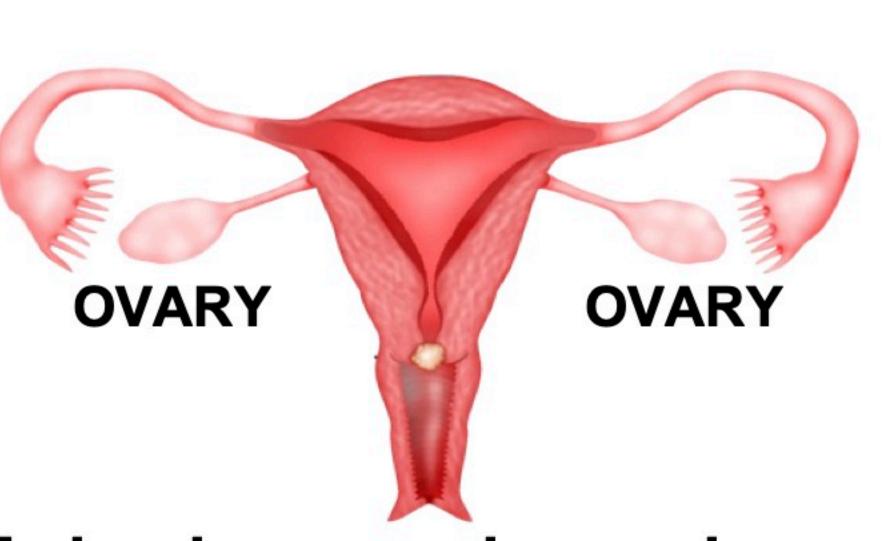
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## CANCER CONSULTANTS OF AMERICA

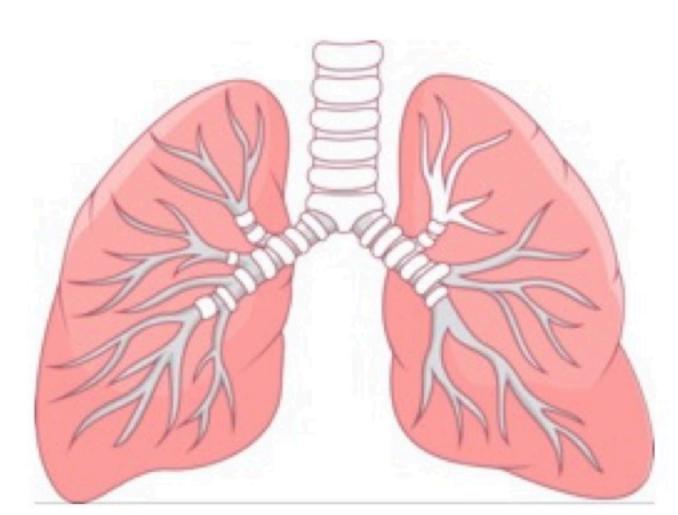
BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CANCER AND UNDERSTANDING®

# Cancer Answers

#### Talcum Powder and Cancer







Talc is a mineral composed of magnesium, silicon, and oxygen that is mined from the earth. In many instances, the talc deposits in the earth are located in areas that also contain the harmful mineral, asbestos which has been "carcinogenic to humans" as declared by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). In contrast, talc is classified by the IARC as "probably carcinogenic to humans" with limited evidence to support this designation. Talc is commonly used to produce talcum powder which is used in many products for bodily application to absorb moisture. Within the past decade, talcum powder has been in the headlines due to jury verdicts against manufactures of products containing the powder. These jury verdicts determined that the powder in the body products was responsible for the ovarian cancer development among several women in the United States. As a result, the jury awarded the women and their families multimillion dollar judgements against the manufacturers that incorporated talcum powder into their products.

The mechanism of action connecting talcum powder to cancer development has yet to be firmly established. However, talcum powder has been linked to ovarian cancer according to numerous scientific reports. This powder is commonly used in many feminine hygiene products that are in close contact with the vagina. It is believed the powder enters the vagina and travels through the female reproductive tract which ends at the ovaries. In support of this hypothesis, a recent report was published that identified talc fibers in ovarian tumors from ten women who used talc products and later diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Furthermore, asbestos particles were found in eight of the ten samples that were positive for talc fibers. Although this population of cancer patients was small (10), this report offers insight for additional investigations attempting to connect cancer development to talc. One explanation that has been proposed suggested that talcum powder induced inflammation near the ovaries.

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Inflammation is a naturally occurring event in the body but can also serve like gasoline to a fire, that is cancer.

development has also been described in peer-reviewed journal articles. Talcum powder contaminated with asbestos has been identified in many baby products. Given that infant caregiving is mostly administered by mothers and nannies, this interaction with infants places women in potentially dangerous situations that exposes them to inhaling suspected cancer-causing substances that are in baby products like baby powder and diapers. In the laboratory setting, asbestos was linked to deletions within the TP53 gene, which many scientists argue to be the most important gene in the human genome. The gene TP53 encodes for the protein named p53 and given the nickname, "The Guardian of the Genome". This important gene is a target that people do not want damaged or deleted since it plays such a significant role in cancer prevention. With this information, it is important to investigate the ingredients that are in products being used on a daily basis such as cosmetic powders including eyeshadow, body powder, and feminine hygiene products.

Submit your Cancer Answers topics to info@CancerConsultantsOfAmerica.com

#### We Are Available to You

Please contact us today if you would like more information about how our services can benefit you and your family.

#### Services:

- Individual and Family Cancer Education
- Medical Appointment Liaison Services
- Information Seminars and Public Speaking Events

#### Fun Facts – May

#### Cancer Awareness Month:

- Melanoma Skin Cancer (Black)
- Bladder Cancer (Blue, Purple, & Yellow) X
- Brain Cancer (Gray)

May 4 – Star Wars Day "May the 4th Be With You!"



May 8 – Parents' Day

May 11 – Mother's Day

May 22 – National Maritime Day 4

May 24 – National Brother's Day 🕅

May 26 – Memorial Day (United States)









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