

Presenter: A leading cancer charity is calling on the government to do more to boost awareness about the early signs of ovarian cancer. More than a quarter of women with the disease are not diagnosed until after they've been admitted to A&E, a statistic health professionals say is alarmingly high. Sky's Becky Johnson has more.

Johnson: Chris Ascal was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2010, she'd had a persistent ache in her side and told her GP. She was referred to hospital where an operation revealed the cancer.

Chris: It was very very scary, if I was in my 20s or 30s, I would have gone to the doctor's earlier, but because I'd had a hysterectomy at 42, and any symptoms that I've got, you know I was 58, in the 50s, menopause symptoms, you know, not really thinking of ovarian cancer at all.

Johnson: Chris had a course of chemotherapy and was given the all-clear 18 months ago, but a charity says too many women are dying of the disease because it isn't caught early enough and is calling on the government to raise awareness.

Late diagnosis is a major problem for us. 29% of women are diagnosed following admission to A&E, and this is simply appalling, this is not acceptable.

Johnson: Ovarian cancer is the fifth most common cancer in women. Around 6,700 cases in the UK are diagnosed every year. Presently only 36% of women will survive five years after their diagnosis. New research finds just 3% of women are very confident they know the signs to look out for.

The kinds of symptoms women notice are things like a bit of abdominal bloating, a little bit of pain and sometimes a change in appetite or change in bladder or bowel symptoms. The important thing to be aware of is those symptoms are persistent or not.

Johnson: Like Chris most women get ovarian cancer in their 50s or older, but younger women can also be affected. There's currently no routine screening for the disease but cancer charities say if more women know the warning signs lives will be saved.

Becky Johnson, Skynews.