**Original article:**

**Malignant pleural effusion in carcinoma ovary: Experience of a tertiary care teaching hospital in northern India**

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**Abstract:**

**Background:** Approximately one fourth of all pleural effusions in a hospital are secondary to cancer[1]. Worldwide, ovarian carcinoma is among the most common cancers and major causes of malignant pleural effusion in women [2]. We intend to find out the incidence of pleural effusion in ovarian carcinoma and impact on treatment.

**Observations**: Out of 88 cases of ovarian cancer, 43 patients developed Ascitis and 23 patients developed clinically evident pleural effusion. The mean age of presentation was 47.89 years (range- 30- 70 Years). Pleural fluid cytology was positive in 16 (69.58%) patients. CT scan of thorax helped in diagnosis of pleural effusion in seven patients. Thoracoscopy/biopsy was performed in seven patients and macroscopic pleural infiltrations were found in all the patients. The level of CA 125 was elevated in all the patients and the mean value was 2716.62 IU/L. The level of CA 125 declined dramatically with treatment. We performed intercostals drainage and chemical pleurodesis in 15 patients and achieved complete responses. Only 38 patients could be followed for a minimum of six month, 29 of them never had ascitis or pleural effusion.

**Conclusion:** More than 1/3rd patients of ovarian carcinoma suffered from pleural effusion. We must actively search for pleural metastasis by using newer means of diagnostics like CT scan or thoracoscopy as presence of pleural metastasis affects the treatment and outcome adversely.

**Key words**: ovarian carcinoma, malignant pleural effusion