

1 **Title: THE MORPHOLOGY OF OVARIAN CANCER: WORLDWIDE**
2 **DISTRIBUTION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL SURVIVAL**
3 **COMPARISONS (CONCORD-2)**

4 **Authors:** Matz, Melissa^a; Coleman, Michel P^a; Sant, Milena^b; Chirlaque, Maria
5 Dolores^c; Visser, Otto^d; Gore, Martin^e; Allemani, Claudia^a; and the CONCORD
6 Working Group*

7 ^a Cancer Survival Group, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine,
8 London, UK

9 ^b Department of Preventive and Predictive Medicine, Analytical Epidemiology
10 and Health Impact Unit, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori,
11 Milan, Italy

12 ^c Department of Epidemiology, Regional Health Council, IMIB, Arrixaca,
13 Murcia, Spain. CIBER Epidemiología y Salud Pública (CIBERESP), Madrid,
14 Spain. Department of Health and Social Sciences, Murcia University, Murcia,
15 Spain

16 ^d Department of Registration, Netherlands Comprehensive Cancer
17 Organisation, Utrecht, the Netherlands

18 ^e The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK

19 *Members listed at end of manuscript

20 **Corresponding author:**

21 Melissa Matz

22 Postal address: Cancer Survival Group, London School of Hygiene & Tropical
23 Medicine, Keppel Street, London, UK

24 Email: Melissa.Matz@LSHTM.ac.uk

25 Phone: +44 (0) 20 7299 4729

26 **ABSTRACT**

27 **Objective:** Ovarian cancers comprise several morphologically distinct tumour
28 groups with widely different prognosis. We aimed to describe the worldwide
29 distribution of ovarian cancer morphology and to understand what role this
30 may play in international variation in survival.

31

32 **Methods:** The CONCORD programme is the largest population-based study
33 of global trends in cancer survival. Data on 681,759 women diagnosed during
34 1995-2009 with cancer of the ovary, fallopian tube, peritoneum and
35 retroperitoneum in 51 countries were included. We categorised ovarian
36 tumours into six morphological groups, and explored the worldwide
37 distribution of morphology.

38

39 **Results:** During 2005-2009, type II epithelial tumours were the most common.
40 The proportion was much higher in Oceania (73.1%), North America (73.0%)
41 and Europe (72.6%) than in Central and South America (65.7%) and Asia
42 (56.1%). By contrast, type I epithelial tumours were more common in Asia
43 (32.5%), compared with only 19.4% in North America. From 1995 to 2009, the
44 proportion of type II epithelial tumours increased from 68.6% to 71.1%, while
45 the proportion of type I epithelial tumours fell from 23.8% to 21.2%. The
46 proportions of germ cell tumours, sex cord-stromal tumours, other specific
47 non-epithelial tumours and tumours of non-specific morphology all remained
48 stable over time.

49

50 **Conclusions:** The distribution of ovarian cancer morphology varies widely

51 worldwide. Type I epithelial, germ cell and sex cord-stromal tumours are
52 generally associated with higher survival than type II tumours, so the
53 proportion of these tumours may influence survival estimates for all ovarian
54 cancers combined. The distribution of morphological groups should be
55 considered when comparing survival between countries and regions.

56

57 Word count: 250

58 **Introduction**

59 Of all gynaecological malignancies, ovarian cancer causes the second highest
60 number of deaths worldwide, accounting for over 151,000 deaths annually(1).

61 Symptoms, such as persistent abdominal pain, bloating or decreased
62 appetite, are vague(2). Most women present with advanced-stage disease(3)
63 and five-year survival is around 30-40%(4). Ovarian cancer is not a single
64 disease(2, 5), but includes several morphological subtypes that have widely
65 different prognosis(6, 7).

66

67 Ovarian cancer has been divided into epithelial and non-epithelial groups for
68 many years, but recent work has enabled finer subdivision of epithelial ovarian
69 cancers into different groups according to a combination of morphological and
70 clinical characteristics(6-10). Type I epithelial tumours include low-grade
71 serous, endometrioid, clear cell, mucinous and transitional cell (Brenner)
72 carcinomas. They often present at an early stage, may arise from borderline
73 ovarian tumours or endometriosis and typically have a good prognosis. Type II
74 epithelial tumours comprise high-grade serous carcinoma, undifferentiated
75 carcinomas and malignant mixed mesodermal tumours. They account for
76 around 75% of epithelial ovarian cancers, typically present at an advanced
77 stage and have a poor prognosis(6, 7, 9). Each morphological group has
78 distinct molecular pathways that influence chemosensitivity, the pattern of
79 metastasis and the probability of survival(9, 11).

80

81 The pathogenesis of ovarian cancer is not fully understood. Recent evidence,
82 particularly from prophylactic oophorectomies in women at a high risk of

83 ovarian cancer because of BRCA gene mutations, suggests that the most
84 common subtype, high-grade serous carcinoma, originates either in the
85 fallopian tube or on the surface of the ovary. Therefore, fallopian tube
86 carcinoma has more recently been included in a broader definition of ovarian
87 cancer(7). Primary peritoneal carcinoma is also managed in the same way as
88 advanced-stage epithelial ovarian cancer(6, 12).

89

90 International comparisons of cancer incidence, mortality and survival are
91 crucial to inform and plan health policy and cancer control programmes. Low
92 survival has been a stimulus for cancer plans and strategies in many
93 countries, such as the United Kingdom and Denmark(3). Comparisons of lung
94 cancer survival have routinely been divided into small-cell and non-small cell
95 subtypes due to the different prognosis and behaviour of these tumours.

96 Ovarian cancer is arguably an even more heterogeneous disease than lung
97 cancer, and morphology should thus be considered in the interpretation of
98 international variation in ovarian cancer survival. Type I epithelial tumours are
99 generally associated with higher survival than type II tumours, so the
100 proportion of type I epithelial tumours may influence survival estimates for all
101 ovarian cancers combined. Differences in the distribution of morphology may
102 thus contribute to international variations in survival from all ovarian cancers
103 combined, in addition to international differences in stage at diagnosis and
104 treatment.

105

106 The CONCORD-2 study on the global surveillance of cancer survival has
107 shown the extent to which ovarian cancer survival varies worldwide(4).

108 However, it remains unclear how much of the variation in ovarian cancer
109 survival could be attributed to international variation in the morphological
110 subtypes, in particular the distribution of type I and type II epithelial tumours.
111 Using population-based data from the CONCORD-2 study, we have examined
112 the international distribution of ovarian cancer morphology. Our aims were to
113 describe the worldwide variation of ovarian cancer morphological groups, and
114 then to discuss whether this variation may influence international comparisons
115 of population-based cancer survival.

116

117 **Methods**

118 The CONCORD-2 study(4) collected information for over 779,000 adult
119 women (aged 15-99 years) in 61 countries who were diagnosed during the 15-
120 year period 1995-2009 with a cancer of the ovary, fallopian tube, uterine
121 ligaments and adnexa, other specific and unspecified female genital organs,
122 peritoneum or retroperitoneum (International Classification of Diseases for
123 Oncology, 3rd edition (ICD-O-3) topography codes C56.9, C57.0-C57.4,
124 C57.7-C57.9, C48.0-C48.2)(13). The CONCORD-2 protocol, the ethical
125 approvals and the quality control procedures have been described(4).

126

127 We defined six morphological groups based on previous literature(14) and
128 clinical advice [Table 1]. Clear cell, endometrioid, mucinous, squamous and
129 transitional cell carcinomas were grouped as type I epithelial tumours, and
130 serous carcinoma, mixed epithelial and stromal carcinoma and
131 undifferentiated and other epithelial carcinoma were grouped as type II
132 epithelial tumours.

133

134 Ovarian cystadenomas were reclassified in ICD-O-3 from invasive (behaviour
135 code of 3) to borderline (behaviour code of 0 or 1), but some registries coded
136 tumours of borderline behaviour as invasive despite the changes from ICD-O-
137 2 to ICD-O-3. Borderline tumours were excluded from the analysis of the
138 distribution. Morphology codes for haematological malignancies were also
139 excluded from analysis.

140

141 Data were available for 793,098 women for analysis [supplementary Figure 1].
142 Women diagnosed with borderline tumours, haematological malignancies or
143 whose records included invalid ICD-O-3 codes (codes not included in either
144 ICD-O-2 or ICD-O-3) were excluded (n=13,073). Of the remaining 780,025
145 women, 90.6% (706,807) had tumours that were coded by the registry as
146 having been morphologically verified, while 7.5% (58,682) were coded as not
147 morphologically verified and 1.9% (14,536) were coded as unknown whether
148 morphologically verified or not. For tumours coded as morphologically verified,
149 705,997 (99.9%) had a valid ICD-O-3 morphology code, but no morphology
150 code was available for 810 (0.1%), and these tumours were excluded.
151 Tumours coded as not morphologically verified were primarily tumours of
152 unknown morphology (30,287, 51.6% of non-morphologically verified
153 tumours); these tumours were excluded. We excluded a further 18,200 non-
154 morphologically verified tumours with non-specific morphology. We included
155 the remaining 10,195 tumours that had been coded as not having been
156 morphologically verified, because a specific ICD-O-3 morphology code was
157 nevertheless available, implying that morphological verification had in fact

158 been performed. Tumours for which it was unknown whether morphological
159 verification had been performed or not were evenly distributed across specific
160 (n=5,017), non-specific (n=4,798) and unknown morphology (n=4,721). Of
161 these tumours, we excluded non-specific and unknown tumours. We included
162 the remaining 5,017 tumours coded as unknown whether morphologically
163 verified, because a specific morphology was also recorded, again implying
164 that morphological verification had been completed.

165

166 In total, 721,209 women (98.3% with specific ICD-O-3 morphology codes and
167 1.7% with non-specific codes) were available for analysis after the first round
168 of exclusions.

169

170 We examined the distribution of ovarian cancer morphology for all countries in
171 any calendar period (1995-1999, 2000-2004 and 2005-2009) for which data
172 were available for at least 100 women. Registries from which the survival
173 estimates in the main CONCORD-2 analysis were considered less reliable(4)
174 were also excluded, because the results from this analysis will be used to
175 inform the results of survival analyses of ovarian cancer. Survival estimates
176 were flagged as less reliable if a higher than usual proportion of patients was
177 excluded from analyses because the cancer was registered only through a
178 death certificate, or the date of last vital status was not known. The focus of
179 this analysis was the distribution of specific morphological groups, so women
180 diagnosed in Sweden had to be excluded, because 97.5% of tumours were
181 coded by the registry as undifferentiated or other epithelial carcinoma or as
182 non-specific morphology (ICD-O-3 codes 8000-8004). After all exclusions,

183 681,759 women (86.0% of the total number for whose data were available for
184 analysis) were included in the analysis of the morphological distribution
185 (192,080 in 1995-1999; 240,397 in 2000-2004; 249,282 in 2005-2009)
186 [supplementary Table 1].

187

188 **Results**

189 Type II epithelial tumours were the most common morphology worldwide
190 (476,461; 69.9%), followed by type I epithelial (152,874; 22.4%) [Figure 1].
191 Germ cell, sex cord-stromal, other specific non-epithelial and non-specific
192 tumours were all rare and they only comprised 8% of tumours worldwide; the
193 distribution of these groups remained relatively stable over the 15-year period
194 1995 to 2009. The proportion of type II epithelial tumours increased slightly
195 from 68.6% to 71.1% from 1995 to 2009, and there was a corresponding
196 decrease in type I epithelial tumours (from 23.8% to 21.2%: supplementary
197 Table 1).

198 During 2005-2009, type II epithelial was the most common group in all
199 continents, although the proportion was much higher in Oceania (73.1%),
200 North America (73.0%) and Europe (72.6%) than in Central and South
201 America (65.7%) and Asia (56.1%) [Table 2]. The range at the national level,
202 however, was much wider. The highest proportion of type II tumours was in
203 Latvia (78.9%), with the lowest proportion in Thailand (40.4%) [supplementary
204 Table 4]. There was little between-country variation in the proportion of type II
205 tumours in Central and South America, North America and Oceania. However,
206 the proportion varied widely in Asia, where the proportion of type II tumours
207 was lower than that of type I epithelial tumours in Hong Kong and Thailand

208 [Figure 3]. There was also variation in the proportion of type II tumours in
209 Europe, where they accounted for over 70% of tumours in 15 countries, 60%
210 in 11 countries and only 50.2% in Russia [supplementary Table 4]. The
211 distribution of type II epithelial subtypes (serous, undifferentiated and other
212 epithelial and mixed epithelial and stromal carcinoma) also varied by country,
213 continent and calendar period [supplementary Table 2, supplementary Table 3
214 and supplementary Table 5].

215

216 Type I epithelial tumours were the second most common group for all
217 continents during 2005-2009, but the range was wide. The highest proportion
218 was seen in Asia (32.5%), while North America showed the lowest proportion
219 (19.4%) [Table 2]. The proportion was similar in all countries in Central and
220 South America, North America and Oceania [supplementary Table 4]. In
221 Europe, however, there was wider variation, the proportion ranging from
222 11.3% in Latvia to 28.7% in Finland [supplementary Table 4]. The variation
223 was even wider for countries in Asia, with the lowest proportion in Israel
224 (12.8%) and the highest in Hong Kong (51.7%) [Figure 3]. The distribution of
225 specific type I epithelial subtypes (clear cell, endometrioid, mucinous,
226 squamous and transitional cell (Brenner)) also varied over time and differed
227 by country and continent [supplementary Table 2, supplementary Table 3 and
228 supplementary Table 5].

229

230 Germ cell tumours were uncommon everywhere; the proportion in Asia (4.2%)
231 was the highest in any continent, over three times the proportion seen in
232 Europe (1.3%) [Table 2]. The proportion was similar for all countries in Europe

233 (1.3%), North America (2.0%) and Oceania (2.5%). However, there was wide
234 variation between countries in Central and South America and Asia. In Central
235 and South America, the lowest proportion (1.6%) was seen in Cuba, and the
236 highest (7.8%) in Ecuador [supplementary Table 4]. Among Asian countries,
237 the variation was wider, with the lowest proportion in Cyprus (0.9%), and the
238 highest in Jordan (8.1%) [Figure 3].

239

240 Sex cord-stromal tumours were even more uncommon than germ cell
241 tumours. The proportion also varied widely between countries in Asia, Central
242 and South America and Europe. The proportion was similar for all countries in
243 North America (1.5%) and Oceania (0.9%) [Table 2, supplementary Table 4].
244 The widest between-country variation was seen in Europe, with only 0.3% of
245 tumours diagnosed as sex cord-stromal in Denmark, but 11.4% in Russia
246 [supplementary Table 4]. In Central and South America, the proportion ranged
247 from 1.6% in Brazil and Puerto Rico to 4.5% in Cuba. The lowest proportion in
248 Asia was in Israel (0.6%), while the highest proportion was in Jordan (4.7%)
249 [Figure 3].

250

251 The highest proportion of other specific non-epithelial tumours (3.4%) was in
252 Central and South America. The proportion was generally less than 5% in all
253 countries, and between-country variation within each continent was small. The
254 widest variation in the proportions was seen in Asia (0.5% in Indonesia and
255 5.8% in Cyprus) and Europe (0.6% in Croatia and 5.9% in Iceland)
256 [supplementary Table 4].

257

258 Non-specific tumours generally accounted for 3% or less of ovarian tumours in
259 all countries. The highest proportion was recorded in Russia (17.7%), much
260 higher than the next highest proportion (Malta, 6.3%). The lowest proportions
261 of non-specific tumours were seen in the Netherlands and Slovenia (0.1%)
262 [supplementary Table 4].

263

264 **Discussion**

265 This is the largest study of the distribution of ovarian cancer morphology. It is
266 based on individual patient records from 218 population-based cancer
267 registries in 51 countries. Data were available for 681,759 women, including
268 249,282 diagnosed between 2005 and 2009. Type II epithelial tumours were
269 the most common morphological group in each continent, but the distribution
270 of morphological groups varied greatly worldwide. The distribution was similar
271 in Europe, North America and Oceania, while there was a much higher
272 proportion of type I epithelial tumours seen in Asia and Central and South
273 America.

274

275 Previous studies of the morphological subtypes of ovarian cancer have
276 focused on epithelial tumours, and they have generally been limited to a small
277 number of countries. One meta-analysis included data for 98,099 women from
278 41 studies published between 1992 and 2012, only 12 of which used data
279 from population-based registries(15). The results were similar to those found
280 in this study, with type II epithelial tumours more common than type I epithelial
281 tumours. The distribution of subtypes between countries included in the meta-
282 analysis was heterogeneous.

283

284 Some of the variations in the distribution of ovarian cancer morphology may
285 be explained by ethnicity. A higher proportion of type II epithelial tumours
286 diagnosed between 2005 and 2009 was reported in Israel (77.8%) than in
287 most other countries. This may be attributable to the fact that a high
288 percentage of the population in Israel is of Jewish ancestry, in whom BRCA1
289 and BRCA2 gene mutations are more common than in other populations.
290 Serous tumours, which are classified as type II epithelial, are the most
291 common morphological subtype among women with BRCA1 and BRCA2
292 mutations(16).

293

294 The proportions of type I and type II epithelial tumours were markedly different
295 between the US and Japan. In Japan, 41.3% of tumours were type I epithelial
296 and 47.5% were type II epithelial, compared to 19.0% and 73.2% in the US
297 [supplementary Table 4]. The lower proportion of serous tumours in Japan
298 and other East Asian countries is due in part to the higher proportion of clear
299 cell cancers [supplementary Table 5]. These differences are most probably
300 due to the higher incidence of endometriosis, a potential pre-cursor of clear
301 cell and endometrioid tumours(17), in East Asian women(18).

302

303 The proportion of mucinous tumours varied, ranging from over 10% in most
304 Asian countries to 5-6% in most North American, European and Oceanian
305 countries. The higher proportion in Japan is not clearly explained. Many
306 tumours classified as mucinous may in fact be metastatic to the ovary from
307 the gastrointestinal tract, including the stomach, which has a high incidence in
308 Asia(19, 20). The reduction in the worldwide proportion of mucinous ovarian

309 cancer from 9.2% to 6.8% between 1995-1999 and 2005-2009
310 [supplementary Table 5] may be partially attributable to more accurate
311 immunohistochemical and imaging assessment, which allows for the
312 exclusion of primary mucinous tumours from a different primary site,
313 particularly those of the gastrointestinal tract. It can otherwise be difficult to
314 differentiate a true primary mucinous ovarian cancer from mucinous tumours
315 that are metastatic to the ovary(21).

316

317 Germ cell and sex cord-stromal tumours of the ovary should be considered
318 separately in survival analysis, because they typically have higher survival
319 than epithelial ovarian cancers. The proportion of germ cell tumours was less
320 than 3% in most countries, but in some Asian and Central and South
321 American countries, the proportions were much higher (5-8%). These
322 differences are important, because the incidence of germ cell tumours is
323 highest among young women and survival is usually very high, even with the
324 tumour is diagnosed at an advanced stage, if optimal treatment is
325 achievable(22). The higher proportion of germ cell tumours in Asia and
326 Central and South America may therefore be due to the younger age profile of
327 populations in these regions. The proportion of sex cord-stromal tumours was
328 less than 2% in most countries, but much higher in some European countries.
329 These differences are also important in the comparison of survival from
330 ovarian cancers combined, because survival is much higher for sex cord-
331 stromal tumours than for epithelial ovarian cancers(23).

332

333 Variation in the distribution of morphological groups of ovarian cancer may

334 impact international comparisons of survival from all ovarian cancers
335 combined if countries with more favourable morphological distributions, where
336 more tumours are classified as type I epithelial, germ cell or sex cord-stromal,
337 are compared to survival in countries with higher proportions of type II
338 epithelial tumours. In the main CONCORD-2 analysis(4), age-standardised 5-
339 year survival from all ovarian tumours combined was higher in some East
340 Asian countries than in Europe, North America and Oceania. In Hong Kong, 5-
341 year survival was 52.9% for women diagnosed from 2005 to 2009, much
342 higher than the highest level of survival in Europe (Finland: 44.9%), North
343 America (US: 40.9%) and Oceania (Australia: 37.5%)(4). The proportion of
344 type I epithelial tumours in Hong Kong (51.7%) was the highest among the 51
345 countries, and Hong Kong was one of only two countries where type I
346 epithelial tumours were more common than type II epithelial tumours. Thus,
347 the higher survival for all ovarian cancers combined in Hong Kong may be
348 partially explained by the more favourable distribution of morphology. A
349 favourable distribution was also seen in Ecuador, with one of the highest
350 proportions of germ cell tumours (7.8%), and age-standardised 5-year survival
351 was 47.0% for all tumours combined(4).

352

353 For many areas of the world, data from population-based cancer registries are
354 still insufficient to allow meaningful comparisons of ovarian cancer
355 morphology. Lack of accurate cancer registration in many areas, and the high
356 proportion of non-specific morphology in many countries, still limits worldwide
357 comparison of survival by morphology.

358

359 During 2005-2009, the highest proportion of tumours of non-specific
360 morphology was seen in Russia (17.7%), which may explain the low
361 proportion of type II epithelial tumours in the country, because many non-
362 specific tumours will be diagnosed at an advanced stage [supplementary
363 Table 4]. In order to classify a tumour as a specific subtype, such as serous or
364 endometrioid, a tissue biopsy or surgical resection is required; thus,
365 morphology may not be correctly classified into a specific subtype if the
366 disease is diagnosed at an advanced stage. In Central and South America,
367 the largest registry (Puerto Rico) provided data only for 684 women, of which
368 24.3% were recorded as having been diagnosed with undifferentiated or other
369 epithelial carcinoma. The accuracy of morphology data is also reliant upon
370 data transmission to the cancer registries and recording of morphology codes,
371 so the distribution of subtypes may be affected by registry procedures and the
372 classifications in use. For example, in Sweden, only 324 of 12,969 (2.5%)
373 women with ovarian cancer were reported as being diagnosed with a specific
374 morphology, compared with 6,311 of 7,322 women (86.2%) in Finland.
375 Previous reports on ovarian cancer in Sweden showed over 98% specific
376 morphology codes(24). Additionally, the distribution for Hong Kong included
377 only epithelial tumours, because other ovarian cancer subtypes were not
378 submitted. While Sweden was excluded from these analyses, Hong Kong was
379 included because comparison of the most common subtypes, type I and type
380 II epithelial, was still achievable.

381

382 Variation between pathologists in the classification of ovarian tumours into
383 specific histological subtypes may affect the distribution of subtypes within a

384 country, and thus, comparisons of the distributions of subtypes between
385 countries. Various studies conducted from 1984 to 1994 of the reproducibility
386 of the World Health Organization's 1973 histological classification of ovarian
387 tumours(25) showed only moderate levels of reproducibility(26). The WHO
388 classification for ovarian tumours was updated in 1999(27), 2003(28) and
389 2014(2). Because tumours diagnosed from 1995 to 2009 were included in the
390 analysis, pathologists could have used either the 1973, 1999 or 2003 criteria
391 to assign a histological subtype to a tumour included in the study. The
392 definitions of the various histological subtypes do not change drastically over
393 time from 1973 to 2003, so the edition used by the pathologist is not
394 necessarily relevant. However, the definitions of the subtypes are general and
395 the 2003 criteria did not include changes or criteria that could improve
396 reproducibility; thus, observer variation remains an issue(26).

397 Studies of immunohistochemical biomarkers and molecular genetic features
398 for certain histological subtypes may allow for more reproducible diagnoses.
399 TP53 mutations are found in 80% of women diagnosed with high-grade
400 serous carcinoma, while KRAS, BRAF and ERBB2 mutations are more
401 common in women with low-grade serous carcinoma. Mutations of CTNNB1,
402 PTEN, PIK3CA are common in endometrioid tumours and KRAS mutations
403 can be found in 50% of mucinous tumours. For clear cell carcinoma,
404 mutations of ARID1A and PIK3CA are common(2, 6, 7, 9). With this
405 knowledge and the updated WHO classification of 2014, reproducibility of the
406 histological typing of ovarian cancers should improve.

407

408 In order to classify serous tumours appropriately into morphological groups,

409 knowledge of the tumour grade is important. However, data on tumour grade
410 are not routinely collected by cancer registries. For ovarian cancer, most
411 serous carcinomas are high-grade, and will have been correctly classified in
412 our analysis as type II epithelial, but a small proportion are low-grade, and
413 should have been classified as type I epithelial(6, 7, 9, 10, 29, 30). Because
414 the proportion of low-grade serous tumours is small(2), the effect of any
415 misclassification on the distribution of morphology is expected to be minimal.
416 The distinction between high-grade and low-grade serous carcinoma is
417 important, because they have a distinct pathogenesis and are thought to be
418 different diseases(6, 7). Low-grade serous carcinoma is more common in
419 younger women, and is thought to arise from borderline serous tumours. In
420 contrast, high-grade serous carcinoma is more common in older women, is
421 thought to arise from tubal disease and typically exhibits p53 mutation(6, 7,
422 31). Similarly, endometrioid tumours are classified as either low- or high-
423 grade, and classification into type I or type II epithelial has previously
424 depended on tumour grade(7). Most endometrioid ovarian tumours will be
425 low-grade(2), and some pathologists have argued that high-grade
426 endometrioid tumours may not exist(7, 10). Distinguishing between high-grade
427 endometrioid and high-grade serous tumours is difficult, and when distinction
428 between endometrioid and serous tumours is unclear, most high-grade
429 tumours may be classified as high-grade serous, because this subtype is
430 more common than high-grade endometrioid(7, 10). Following an update in
431 2016 of the original definitions of type I and type II epithelial tumours, all
432 endometrioid tumours would now be categorised as type I, regardless of
433 tumour grade(6). Future analyses of ovarian cancer survival should, if

434 possible, incorporate a distinction between high- and low-grade serous
435 carcinoma, to reflect the current understanding of ovarian cancer
436 pathogenesis and behaviour, and to classify serous carcinomas appropriately
437 into type I and type II epithelial tumours.

438

439 Carcinoma, NOS (ICD-O-3 morphology code 8010), large cell carcinoma,
440 NOS (8012) and adenocarcinoma, NOS (8140) were categorised as
441 undifferentiated and other epithelial tumours and grouped broadly as type II
442 epithelial. There may also be some misclassification of these tumours,
443 because these morphology codes are not specific codes, so classification into
444 type I or type II is difficult. However, carcinoma (NOS), large cell carcinoma
445 (NOS) and adenocarcinoma (NOS) are treated clinically as if they were high-
446 grade serous carcinomas, which are classified as type II. Therefore, we
447 decided to categorise these tumours as type II epithelial. They comprise
448 20.9% of tumours included in the analysis.

449

450 Only morphologically verified tumours, or those with specific morphologies
451 that implied morphological verification, were included in the analysis. This
452 restriction may affect the distribution of morphological subtypes, because the
453 morphology of advanced-stage tumours that are not fully investigated may be
454 coded as non-specific or unknown. If more advanced-stage tumours are not
455 morphologically verified and therefore excluded from analysis, the distribution
456 of morphological groups may appear more favourable than it actually is.

457

458 This worldwide study of ovarian cancer morphology has identified striking
459 variations in morphological distribution, using data from population-based

460 cancer registries in 51 countries. The two main morphological groups of
461 ovarian cancer have different prognosis, primarily due to differences in the
462 distribution of stage, sensitivity to chemotherapy and response to surgical
463 resection. International comparisons of ovarian cancer survival should take
464 morphology into account, to help identify whether the distribution of
465 morphological type contributes to international differences in ovarian cancer
466 survival, which is typically reported for all morphological subtypes combined.
467 To understand further the impact on survival, we are examining international
468 differences in ovarian cancer survival by morphological group. Registration of
469 both the morphology and the grade of ovarian cancers is important to help
470 categorise these tumours more accurately into morphological groups,
471 especially type I and type II epithelial. Increased support for the development
472 of high-quality population-based cancer registries in low-income countries will
473 also help improve international comparisons of ovarian cancer survival.

474 Word count: 3801

475 **CONCORD Working Group**

476 **Africa—Algeria:** S Bouzbid (Registre du Cancer d'Annaba); M Hamdi-Chérif*, Z Zaidi
 477 (Registre du Cancer de Sétif); **Gambia:** E Bah, R Swaminathan (National Cancer
 478 Registry); **Lesotho:** SH Nortje, DC Stefan (Children's Haematology Oncology
 479 Clinics - Lesotho); **Libya:** MM El Mistiri (Benghazi Cancer Registry); **Mali:** S Bayo,
 480 B Malle (Kankou Moussa University); **Mauritius:** SS Manraj, R Sewpaul-Sungkur
 481 (Mauritius Cancer Registry); **Nigeria:** A Fabowale, OJ Ogunbiyi* (Ibadan Cancer
 482 Registry); **South Africa:** D Bradshaw, NIM Somdyala (Eastern Cape Province
 483 Cancer Registry); **Sudan:** M Abdel-Rahman (University of Khartoum); **Tunisia:** L
 484 Jaidane, M Mokni (Registre du Cancer du Centre Tunisien).

485 **America (Central and South)—Argentina:** I Kumcher, F Moreno (National Childhood
 486 Cancer Registry – National Cancer Institute); MS González, EA Laura (Registro
 487 Regional de Tumores del Sur de la Provincia de Buenos Aires); SB Espinola, GH
 488 Calabrano (Registro Poblacional de Tumores de la Provincia del Chubut); B
 489 Carballo Quintero, R Fita (Registro Provincial de Tumores de Córdoba); DA
 490 Garcilazo, PL Giacciani (Entre Rios Cancer Registry); MC Diumenjo, WD Laspada
 491 (Registro Provincial de Tumores de Mendoza); MA Green, MF Lanza (Registro de
 492 Cáncer de Santa Fe); SG Ibañez (Cancer Registry of Tierra del Fuego Province);
 493 **Brazil:** CA Lima, E Lobo de Oliveira (Registro de Câncer de Base Populacional de
 494 Aracaju); C Daniel, C Scanduzzi (Cancer Registry of Distrito Federal); PCF De
 495 Souza, CD Melo (Registro de Câncer de Base Populacional de Cuiabá); K Del
 496 Pino, C Laporte (Registro de Curitiba); MP Curado, JC de Oliveira (Registro de
 497 Goiânia); CLA Veneziano, DB Veneziano (Registro de Câncer de Base
 498 Populacional de Jahu); TS Alexandre, AS Verdugo (Registro de Câncer de São
 499 Paulo); G Azevedo e Silva* (University of Rio de Janeiro); **Chile:** JC Galaz, JA
 500 Moya (Registro Poblacional de Cáncer Region de Antofagasta); DA Herrmann, S
 501 Vargas (Registro Poblacional Region de Los Rios); **Colombia:** VM Herrera, CJ
 502 Uribe (Registro Poblacional de Cáncer Area Metropolitana de Bucaramanga); LE
 503 Bravo (Cali Cancer Registry); NE Arias-Ortiz (Registro Poblacional de Cáncer de
 504 Manizales); DM Jurado, MC Yépez (Registro Poblacional de Cáncer del Municipio
 505 de Pasto); **Cuba:** YH Galán, P Torres (Registro Nacional de Cáncer de Cuba);
 506 **Ecuador:** F Martínez-Reyes, ML Pérez-Meza (Cuenca Tumor Registry); L
 507 Jaramillo, R Quinto (Guayaquil Cancer Registry); P Cueva, JG Yépez (Quito
 508 Cancer Registry); **Puerto Rico:** CR Torres-Cintrón, G Tortolero-Luna (Puerto Rico
 509 Central Cancer Registry); **Uruguay:** R Alonso, E Barrios (Registro Nacional de
 510 Cáncer).

511 **America (North)—Canada:** C Nikiforuk, L Shack (Alberta Cancer Registry); AJ
 512 Coldman, RR Woods (British Columbia Cancer Registry); G Noonan, D Turner*
 513 (Manitoba Cancer Registry); E Kumar, B Zhang (New Brunswick Provincial Cancer
 514 Registry); FR McCrate, S Ryan (Newfoundland and Labrador Cancer Registry); H
 515 Hannah (Northwest Territories Cancer Registry); RAD Dewar, M MacIntyre (Nova
 516 Scotia Surveillance and Epidemiology Unit); A Lalany, M Ruta (Nunavut

517 Department of Health and Social Services); L Marrett, DE Nishri* (Ontario Cancer
 518 Registry); C McClure, KA Vriends (Prince Edward Island Cancer Registry); C
 519 Bertrand, R Louchini (Registre Québécois du Cancer); KI Robb, H Stuart-Panko
 520 (Saskatchewan Cancer Registry); S Demers, S Wright (Yukon Government); **USA:**
 521 JT George, X Shen (Alabama Statewide Cancer Registry); JT Brockhouse, DK
 522 O'Brien (Alaska Cancer Registry); KC Ward (Georgia Comprehensive Cancer
 523 Registry; Metropolitan Atlanta Registry); L Almon (Metropolitan Atlanta Registry);
 524 J Bates (California State Cancer Registry); R Rycroft (Colorado Central Cancer
 525 Registry); L Mueller, C Phillips (Connecticut Tumor Registry); H Brown, B
 526 Cromartie (Delaware Cancer Registry); AG Schwartz, F Vigneau (Metropolitan
 527 Detroit Cancer Surveillance System); JA MacKinnon, B Wohler (Florida Cancer
 528 Data System); AR Bayakly (Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry); CA Clarke,
 529 SL Glaser (Greater Bay Area Cancer Registry); D West (Cancer Registry of
 530 Greater California); MD Green, BY Hernandez (Hawaii Tumor Registry); CJ
 531 Johnson, D Jozwik (Cancer Data Registry of Idaho); ME Charlton, CF Lynch (State
 532 Health Registry of Iowa); B Huang, TC Tucker* (Kentucky Cancer Registry); D
 533 Deapen, L Liu (Los Angeles Cancer Surveillance Program); MC Hsieh, XC Wu
 534 (Louisiana Tumor Registry); K Stern (Maryland Cancer Registry); ST Gershman,
 535 RC Knowlton (Massachusetts Cancer Registry); J Alverson, GE Copeland
 536 (Michigan State Cancer Surveillance Program); DB Rogers (Mississippi Cancer
 537 Registry); D Lemons, LL Williamson (Montana Central Tumor Registry); M Hood
 538 (Nebraska Cancer Registry); GM Hosain, JR Rees (New Hampshire State Cancer
 539 Registry); KS Pawlish, A Stroup (New Jersey State Cancer Registry); C Key, C
 540 Wiggins (New Mexico Tumor Registry); AR Kahn, MJ Schymura (New York State
 541 Cancer Registry); G Leung, C Rao (North Carolina Central Cancer Registry); L
 542 Giljahn, B Warther (Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System); A Pate
 543 (Oklahoma Central Cancer Registry); M Patil, SS Schubert (Oregon State Cancer
 544 Registry); JJ Rubertone, SJ Slack (Pennsylvania Cancer Registry); JP Fulton, DL
 545 Rousseau (Rhode Island Cancer Registry); TA Janes, SM Schwartz (Seattle
 546 Cancer Surveillance System); SW Bolick, DM Hurley (South Carolina Central
 547 Cancer Registry); J Richards, MA Whiteside (Tennessee Cancer Registry); LM
 548 Nogueira (Texas Cancer Registry); K Herget, C Sweeney (Utah Cancer Registry);
 549 J Martin, S Wang (Virginia Cancer Registry); DG Harrelson, MB Keitheri Cheteri
 550 (Washington State Cancer Registry); S Farley, AG Hudson (West Virginia Cancer
 551 Registry); R Borchers, L Stephenson (Wisconsin Department of Health Services);
 552 JR Espinoza (Wyoming Cancer Surveillance Program); HK Weir* (Centers for
 553 Disease Control and Prevention); BK Edwards* (National Cancer Institute).

554 **Asia—China:** N Wang, L Yang (Beijing Cancer Registry); JS Chen (Changle City
 555 Cancer Registry); GH Song (Cixian Cancer Registry); XP Gu (Dafeng County
 556 Center for Disease Control and Prevention); P Zhang (Dalian Centers for Disease
 557 Prevention and Control); HM Ge (Donghai County Center for Disease Prevention
 558 and Control); DL Zhao (Feicheng County); JH Zhang (Ganyu Center for Disease
 559 Prevention and Control); FD Zhu (Guanyun Cancer Registry); JG Tang (Haimen

560 Cancer Registry); Y Shen (Haining City Cancer Registry); J Wang (Jianhu Cancer
 561 Registry); QL Li (Jiashan County Cancer Registry); XP Yang (Jintan Cancer
 562 Registry); J Dong, W Li (Lianyungang Center for Disease Prevention and Control);
 563 LP Cheng (Henan Province Central Cancer Registry); JG Chen (Qidong County
 564 Cancer Registry); QH Huang (Sihui Cancer Registry); SQ Huang (Taixing Cancer
 565 Registry); GP Guo (Cancer Institute of Yangzhong City); K Wei (Zhongshan City
 566 Cancer Registry); WQ Chen*, H Zeng (National Central Cancer Registry China);
 567 **Cyprus**: AV Demetriou, P Pavlou (Cyprus Cancer Registry); **Hong Kong**: WK
 568 Mang, KC Ngan (Hong Kong Cancer Registry); **India**: R Swaminathan (Chennai
 569 Cancer Registry); AC Katakai, M Krishnatreya (Guwahati Cancer Registry); PA
 570 Jayalekshmi, P Sebastian (Karunagappally Cancer Registry); SD Sapkota, Y
 571 Verma (Population Based Cancer Registry, Sikkim); A Nandakumar* (National
 572 Centre for Disease Informatics and Research; National Cancer Registry
 573 Programme); **Indonesia**: E Suzanna (Jakarta Cancer Registry); **Israel**: L Keinan-
 574 Boker, BG Silverman (Israel National Cancer Registry); **Japan**: H Ito, H Nakagawa
 575 (Aichi Cancer Registry); M Hattori, Y Kaizaki (Fukui Cancer Registry); H Sugiyama,
 576 M Utada (Hiroshima Prefecture Cancer Registry); K Katayama, H Narimatsu
 577 (Kanagawa Cancer Registry); S Kanemura (Miyagi Prefectural Cancer Registry);
 578 T Koike (Niigata Prefecture Cancer Registry); I Miyashiro (Osaka Cancer Registry);
 579 M Yoshii (Saga Prefectural Cancer Registry); I Oki (Tochigi Prefectural Cancer
 580 Registry); A Shibata (Yamagata Cancer Registry); T Matsuda* (National Cancer
 581 Center); **Jordan**: O Nimri (Jordan National Cancer Registry); **Malaysia**: A Ab
 582 Manan, N Bhoo Pathy (Penang Cancer Registry); **Mongolia**: O Chimedsuren, S
 583 Tuvshingerel (Cancer Registry of Mongolia); **Qatar**: AHM Al Khater, MM El Mistiri
 584 (Qatar Cancer Registry); **Saudi Arabia**: H Al-Eid (Saudi National Cancer Registry);
 585 **South Korea**: KW Jung, YJ Won (Korea Central Cancer Registry); **Taiwan**: CJ
 586 Chiang, MS Lai (Taiwan Cancer Registry); **Thailand**: K Suwanrungruang, S
 587 Wiangnon (Khon Kaen Provincial Registry); K Daoprasert, D Pongnikorn
 588 (Lampang Cancer Registry); SL Geater, H Sriplung (Songkhla Cancer Registry);
 589 **Turkey**: S Eser, CI Yakut (Izmir Cancer Registry).

590 **Europe—Austria**: M Hackl (Austrian National Cancer Registry); H Mühlböck, W
 591 Oberaigner (Tyrol Cancer Registry); **Belarus**: AA Zborovskaya (Belarus Childhood
 592 Cancer Subregistry); OV Aleinikova (Belarusian Research Center for Pediatric
 593 Oncology, Hematology and Immunology); **Belgium**: K Henau, L Van Eycken
 594 (Belgian Cancer Registry); **Bulgaria**: N Dimitrova, Z Valerianova (Bulgarian
 595 National Cancer Registry); **Croatia**: M Šekerija (Croatian National Cancer
 596 Registry); **Czech Republic**: M Zvolský (Czech National Cancer Registry);
 597 **Denmark**: G Engholm, H Storm* (Danish Cancer Society); **Estonia**: K Innos, M
 598 Mägi (Estonian Cancer Registry); **Finland**: N Malila, K Seppä (Cancer Society of
 599 Finland); **France**: J Jégu, M Velten (Bas-Rhin General Cancer Registry); E Cornet,
 600 X Troussard (Registre Régional des Hémopathies Malignes de Basse Normandie);
 601 AM Bouvier, J Faivre (Burgundy Digestive Cancer Registry); AV Guizard (Calvados
 602 General Cancer Registry); V Bouvier, G Launoy (Calvados Digestive Cancer

603 Registry); P Arveux (Côte-d'Or Gynaecologic Cancer Registry); M Maynadié, M
 604 Mounier (Côte-d'Or Haematopoietic Malignancies Registry); E Fournier, AS
 605 Woronoff (Doubs and Belfort Territory General Cancer Registry); M Daoulas
 606 (Finistère Cancer Registry); J Clavel (National Registry of Childhood
 607 Haematopoietic Malignancies); S Le Guyader-Peyrou, A Monnereau (Gironde
 608 Haematopoietic Malignancies Registry); B Trétarre (Hérault General Cancer
 609 Registry); M Colonna (Isère General Cancer Registry); A Cowppli-Bony, F Molinié
 610 (Loire-Atlantique-Vendée Cancer Registry); S Bara, D Degré (Manche General
 611 Cancer Registry); O Ganry, B Lapôtre-Ledoux (Somme General Cancer Registry);
 612 P Grosclaude (Tarn General Cancer Registry); J Estève (Hospices Civils de Lyon);
 613 F Bray*, M Piñeros* (International Agency for Research on Cancer); F Sassi
 614 (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development); **Germany:** R
 615 Stabenow (Common Cancer Registry of the Federal States); A Eberle (Bremen
 616 Cancer Registry); C Erb, A Nennecke (Hamburg Cancer Registry); J Kieschke, E
 617 Sirri (Epidemiological Cancer Registry of Lower Saxony); H Kajuter (North Rhine
 618 Westphalia Cancer Registry); K Emrich, SR Zeissig (Rhineland Palatinate Cancer
 619 Registry); B Holleczeck (Saarland Cancer Registry); N Eisemann, A Katalinic
 620 (Schleswig-Holstein Cancer Registry); H Brenner (German Cancer Research
 621 Center); **Gibraltar:** RA Asquez, V Kumar (Gibraltar Cancer Registry); **Iceland:** EJ
 622 Ólafsdóttir, L Tryggvadóttir (Icelandic Cancer Registry); **Ireland:** H Comber, PM
 623 Walsh (National Cancer Registry); H Sundseth* (European Institute of Women's
 624 Health); **Italy:** E Devigili, G Mazzoleni (Registro Tumori Alto Adige); A Giacomini
 625 (Registro Tumori Biella); F Bella, M Castaing (Integrated Cancer Registry of
 626 Catania-Messina-Siracusa-Enna); A Sutera (Registro Tumori Catanzaro); G Gola
 627 (Registro Tumori della Provincia di Como); S Ferretti (Registro Tumori della
 628 Provincia di Ferrara); D Serraino, A Zucchetto (Registro Tumori del Friuli Venezia
 629 Giulia); R Lillini, M Vercelli (Registro Tumori Regione Liguria); S Busco, F
 630 Pannozzo (Registro Tumori della Provincia di Latina); S Vitarelli (Registro Tumori
 631 della Provincia di Macerata); P Ricci (Registro Tumori Mantova); C Pascucci
 632 (Registro Tumori Marche Childhood); M Autelitano (Registro Tumori Milano); C
 633 Cirilli, M Federico (Registro Tumori della Provincia di Modena); M Fusco, MF Vitale
 634 (Registro Tumori della ASL Napoli 3 sud); M Usala (Nuoro Cancer Registry); R
 635 Cusimano, W Mazzucco (Registro Tumori di Palermo e Provincia); M Michiara, P
 636 Sgargi (Registro Tumori della Provincia di Parma); MM Maule, C Sacerdote
 637 (Piedmont Childhood Cancer Registry); R Tumino (Registro Tumori della Provincia
 638 di Ragusa); E Di Felice, M Vicentini (Registro Tumori Reggio Emilia); F Falcini
 639 (Registro Tumori della Romagna); L Cremone (Registro Tumori Salerno); M
 640 Budroni, R Cesaraccio (Registro Tumori della Provincia di Sassari); ML Contrino,
 641 F Tisano (Registro Tumori Siracusa); AC Fanetti, S Maspero (Registro Tumori
 642 della Provincia di Sondrio); G Candela, T Scuderi (Registro Tumori Trapani); MA
 643 Gentilini, S Piffer (Registro Tumori Trento); S Rosso, L Sacchetto (Registro Tumori
 644 Piemonte Città di Torino); A Caldarella (Registro Tumori della Regione Toscana);
 645 F La Rosa, F Stracci (Registro Tumori Umbro di Popolazione); P Contiero, G
 646 Tagliabue (Registro Tumori Lombardia, Provincia di Varese); AP Dei Tos, M Zorzi

647 (Registro Tumori Veneto); R Zanetti* (International Association of Cancer
 648 Registries); P Baili, F Berrino*, G Gatta, M Sant* (National Cancer Institute); R
 649 Capocaccia*, R De Angelis (National Centre for Epidemiology); **Latvia:** E Liepina,
 650 A Maurina (Latvian Cancer Registry); **Lithuania:** G Smailyte (Lithuanian Cancer
 651 Registry); **Malta:** D Agius, N Calleja (Malta National Cancer Registry);
 652 **Netherlands:** S Siesling, O Visser (Comprehensive Cancer Centre of the
 653 Netherlands); **Norway:** S Larønningen, B Møller (The Cancer Registry of Norway);
 654 **Poland:** A Dyzmann-Sroka, M Trojanowski (Greater Poland Cancer Registry); S
 655 Gózdź, R Mężyk (Cancer Registry of Kielce); M Grądalska-Lampart, AU
 656 Radziszewska (Podkarpackie Cancer Registry); JA Didkowska, U Wojciechowska
 657 (National Cancer Registry); J Błaszczuk, K Kępska (Lower Silesian Cancer
 658 Registry); M Bielska-Lasota, K Kwiatkowska (National Institute of Public Health -
 659 NIH); **Portugal:** G Forjaz, RA Rego (Registo Oncológico Regional dos Açores); J
 660 Bastos, MA Silva (Registo Oncológico Regional do Centro); L Antunes, MJ Bento
 661 (Registo Oncológico Regional do Norte); A Mayer-da-Silva, A Miranda (Registo
 662 Oncológico Regional do Sul); **Romania:** D Coza, AI Todescu (Cancer Institute I.
 663 Chiricută); **Russian Federation:** MY Valkov (Arkhangelsk Regional Cancer
 664 Registry); **Slovakia:** J Adamcik, C Safaei Diba (National Cancer Registry of
 665 Slovakia); **Slovenia:** M Primic-Žakelj, T Žagar (Cancer Registry of Republic of
 666 Slovenia); J Stare (University of Ljubljana); **Spain:** E Almar, A Mateos (Registro de
 667 Cáncer de Albacete); JR Quirós (Registro de Tumores del Principado de Asturias);
 668 J Bidaurrazaga, N Larrañaga (Basque Country Cancer Registry); JM Díaz García,
 669 Al Marcos (Registro de Cáncer de Cuenca); R Marcos-Gragera, ML Vilardell Gil
 670 (Registre de Càncer de Girona); E Molina, MJ Sánchez (Registro de Cáncer de
 671 Granada); P Franch Sureda, M Ramos Montserrat (Mallorca Cancer Registry); MD
 672 Chirlaque, C Navarro (Murcia Cancer Registry); EE Ardanaz, CC Moreno-Iribas
 673 (Registro de Cáncer de Navarra); R Fernández-Delgado, R Peris-Bonet (Registro
 674 Español de Tumores Infantiles (RETI-SEHOP)); J Galceran (Tarragona Cancer
 675 Registry); **Sweden:** S Khan, M Lambe (Swedish Cancer Registry); **Switzerland:** B
 676 Camey (Registre Fribourgeois des Tumeurs); C Bouchardy, M Usel (Geneva
 677 Cancer Registry); SM Ess (Cancer Registry Grisons and Glarus); C Herrmann
 678 (Cancer Registry Grisons and Glarus; Cancer Registry of St Gallen-Appenzell); JL
 679 Bulliard, M Maspoli-Conconi (Registre Neuchâtelois des Tumeurs); H Frick
 680 (Cancer Registry of St Gallen-Appenzell); CE Kuehni, M Schindler (Swiss
 681 Childhood Cancer Registry); A Bordoni, A Spitale (Registro Tumori Cantone
 682 Ticino); A Chiolero, I Konzelmann (Registre Valaisan des Tumeurs); SI Dehler, KL
 683 Matthes (Krebsregister der Kantone Zürich und Zug); **United Kingdom:** J
 684 Rashbass, C Stiller* (Public Health England); D Fitzpatrick, A Gavin (Northern
 685 Ireland Cancer Registry); F Bannon (Queens University, Belfast); RJ Black, DH
 686 Brewster (Scottish Cancer Registry); DW Huws, C White (Welsh Cancer
 687 Intelligence & Surveillance Unit); P Finan (Leeds General Infirmary); C Allemani*,
 688 A Bonaventure, H Carreira, MP Coleman*, V Di Carlo, R Harewood, K Liu, M Matz,
 689 L Montel, M Nikšić, B Rachet*, N Sanz, D Spika (London School of Hygiene &

690 Tropical Medicine); R Stephens* (National Cancer Research Institute, London); M
691 Peake (University of Leicester).

692 **Oceania—Australia:** E Chalker, L Newman (Australian Capital Territory Cancer
693 Registry); D Baker, MJ Soeberg (NSW Cancer Registry); J Aitken, C Scott
694 (Queensland Cancer Registry); BC Stokes, A Venn (Tasmanian Cancer Registry);
695 H Farrugia, GG Giles (Victorian Cancer Registry); T Threlfall (Western Australian
696 Cancer Registry); D Currow*, H You (Cancer Institute NSW); **New Zealand:** J
697 Hendrix, C Lewis (New Zealand Cancer Registry).

698 *CONCORD Steering Committee

699

700 **Acknowledgements**

701 We would like to thank Mr. John Butler for proposing the idea for the manuscript.
702 This work was funded by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, Cancer Focus
703 Northern Ireland, Cancer Institute New South Wales, Cancer Research UK (C1336/
704 A16148), US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC; 12FED03123,
705 ACO12036), Swiss Re, Swiss Research foundation, Swiss Cancer League, and the
706 University of Kentucky (3049024672-12-568).

707 **Conflict of interest**

708 The authors declare there are no conflicts of interest.

709 **References**

- 710 1. Ferlay J, Soerjomataram I, Ervik M, Dikshit R, Eser S, Mathers C, et al. GLOBOCAN 2012 v1.0,
711 Cancer Incidence and Mortality Worldwide: IARC CancerBase No. 11 [Internet]. Lyon, France:
712 International Agency for Research on Cancer; 2013 [cited 2015 18 May].
- 713 2. Kurman RJ, Carcangiu ML, Herrington CS, Young RH, editors. WHO Classification of Tumours
714 of Female Reproductive Organs. 4th ed. Geneva: WHO; 2014.
- 715 3. Maringe C, Walters S, Butler J, Coleman MP, Hacker N, Hanna L, et al. Stage at diagnosis and
716 ovarian cancer survival: evidence from the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership.
717 *Gynecologic Oncology*. 2012;127:75-82.
- 718 4. Allemani C, Weir HK, Carreira H, Harewood R, Spika D, Wang X-S, et al. Global surveillance of
719 cancer survival 1995-2009: analysis of individual data for 25,676,887 patients from 279 population-
720 based registries in 67 countries (CONCORD-2). *The Lancet*. 2015;385:977-1010.
- 721 5. Taylor H. Malignant and semi-malignant tumours of the ovary. *Surg Gynecol Obsts*.
722 1929(48):204-30.
- 723 6. Kurman RJ, Shih Ie M. The Dualistic Model of Ovarian Carcinogenesis: Revisited, Revised, and
724 Expanded. *Am J Pathol*. 2016;186(4):733-47.
- 725 7. Kurman RJ, Shih IM. The origin and pathogenesis of epithelial ovarian cancer: a proposed
726 unifying theory. *Am J Surg Pathol*. 2010;34:433-43.
- 727 8. McCluggage WG. My approach to and thoughts on the typing of ovarian carcinomas. *J Clin*
728 *Pathol*. 2008;61(2):152-63.
- 729 9. Kurman RJ, Shih Ie M. Molecular pathogenesis and extraovarian origin of epithelial ovarian
730 cancer--shifting the paradigm. *Hum Pathol*. 2011;42(7):918-31.
- 731 10. McCluggage WG. Morphological subtypes of ovarian carcinoma: a review with emphasis on
732 new developments and pathogenesis. *Pathology*. 2011;43(5):420-32.
- 733 11. Banerjee S, Kaye SB. New strategies in the treatment of ovarian cancer: current clinical
734 perspectives and future potential. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2013;19(5):961-8.
- 735 12. National Cancer Institute. Ovarian Epithelial, Fallopian Tube, and Primary Peritoneal Cancer
736 Treatment (PDQ®): National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health; 2015 [updated
737 21/08/2015; cited 2016 21/04/2016]. Health Professionals Version:[Available from:
738 <http://www.cancer.gov/types/ovarian/hp/ovarian-epithelial-treatment-pdq>.
- 739 13. Fritz AG, Percy C, Jack A, Shanmugaratnam K, Sobin LH, Parkin DM, et al., editors.
740 *International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (ICD-O)*. 3rd ed. Geneva: World Health
741 Organization; 2000.
- 742 14. Trent Cancer Registry National Cancer Intelligence Network. Overview of ovarian cancer in
743 England: incidence, mortality and survival. London: Trent Cancer Registry, 2012.
- 744 15. Sung PL, Chang YH, Chao KC, Chuang CM, Task Force on Systematic R, Meta-analysis of
745 Ovarian C. Global distribution pattern of histological subtypes of epithelial ovarian cancer: a
746 database analysis and systematic review. *Gynecol Oncol*. 2014;133(2):147-54.
- 747 16. Moslehi R, Chu W, Karlan B, Fishman D, Risch H, Fields A, et al. BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation
748 analysis of 208 Ashkenazi Jewish women with ovarian cancer. *Am J Hum Genet*. 2000;66(4):1259-72.
- 749 17. Wang Y, Mang M, Wang Y, Wang L, Klein R, Kong B, et al. Tubal origin of ovarian
750 endometriosis and clear cell and endometrioid carcinoma. *Am J Cancer Res*. 2015;5(3):869-79.
- 751 18. Jacoby VL, Fujimoto VY, Giudice LC, Kuppermann M, Washington AE. Racial and ethnic
752 disparities in benign gynecologic conditions and associated surgeries. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*.
753 2010;202(6):514-21.
- 754 19. Harrison ML, Jameson C, Gore ME. Mucinous ovarian cancer. *Int J Gynecol Cancer*.
755 2008;18(2):209-14.
- 756 20. Rahman R, Asombang AW, Ibdah JA. Characteristics of gastric cancer in Asia. *World J*
757 *Gastroenterol*. 2014;20(16):4483-90.

- 758 21. Wang J, El-Bahrawy MA. Expression profile of mucins in ovarian mucinous tumors:
759 distinguishing primary ovarian from metastatic tumors. *Int J Gynecol Pathol*. 2014;33(2):166-75.
- 760 22. Mangili G, Sigismondi C, Gadducci A, Cormio G, Scollo P, Tateo S, et al. Outcome and risk
761 factors for recurrence in malignant ovarian germ cell tumors: a MITO-9 retrospective study. *Int J*
762 *Gynecol Cancer*. 2011;21(8):1414-21.
- 763 23. Holscher G, Anthuber C, Bastert G, Burges A, Mayr D, Oberlechner E, et al. Improvement of
764 survival in sex cord stromal tumors - an observational study with more than 25 years follow-up. *Acta*
765 *Obstet Gynecol Scand*. 2009;88(4):440-8.
- 766 24. Oberaigner W, Minicozzi P, Bielska-Lasota M, Allemani C, De Angelis R, Mangone L, et al.
767 Survival for ovarian cancer in Europe: the across-country variation did not shrink in the past decade.
768 *Acta Oncologica*. 2012;51(4):441-53.
- 769 25. Servov S, Scully R, Sobin LH. *Histological typing of ovarian tumours*. Geneva: World Health
770 Organization; 1973.
- 771 26. Clarke B, Gilks B. Ovarian carcinoma: recent developments in classification of tumour
772 histological subtype. *Canadian Journal of Pathology*. 2011:33-42.
- 773 27. Scully R, Sobin LH. *Histological typing of ovarian tumours*. 2nd ed. Geneva: World Health
774 Organization; 1999.
- 775 28. Tavassoli FAD, P., editor. *Pathology and Genetics of Tumours of the Breast and Female*
776 *Genital Organs*. Lyon: IARC Press; 2003.
- 777 29. Prat J. New insights into ovarian cancer pathology. *Ann Oncol*. 2012;23 Suppl 10:x111-7.
- 778 30. Seidman JD, Horkayne-Szakaly I, Cosin JA, Ryu HS, Haiba M, Boice CR, et al. Testing of two
779 binary grading systems for FIGO stage III serous carcinoma of the ovary and peritoneum. *Gynecol*
780 *Oncol*. 2006;103(2):703-8.
- 781 31. Vang R, Shih le M, Kurman RJ. Ovarian low-grade and high-grade serous carcinoma:
782 pathogenesis, clinicopathologic and molecular biologic features, and diagnostic problems. *Adv Anat*
783 *Pathol*. 2009;16(5):267-82.
- 784
- 785

786 **List of tables**787 **Table 1.** Ovarian cancer morphological groups and subtypes^a788 ^a No information on grade was available, therefore all endometrioid tumours were
789 classified as type I epithelial.790 ^b No information on grade was available, therefore all serous tumours were classified
791 as type II epithelial792 ^c Borderline tumours (ICD-O-3 codes: 8442, 8444, 8451, 8462, 8463, 8472, 8473)
793 were excluded from the analysis of distribution of morphological subtypes (see text).

794

795 **Table 2.** Distribution of morphological groups by continent and calendar period of
796 diagnosis^a797 ^a Borderline tumours (ICD-O-3 codes: 8442, 8444, 8451, 8462, 8463, 8472, 8473)
798 were excluded from the analysis of distribution of morphological subtypes (see text).799 ^b No information on grade was available, therefore all endometrioid tumours were
800 classified as type I epithelial.801 ^c No information on grade was available, therefore all serous tumours were classified
802 as type II epithelial.803 ^d Morphologically verified tumours with ICD-O-3 morphology codes 8000-8004. Only
804 countries with at least 100 women in any given time period were included. All
805 tumours with a specific ICD-O-3 morphology code were included.

806

807 **Supplementary Table 1.** Distribution of ovarian cancer by morphological group and
808 calendar period of diagnosis^a809 ^a Borderline tumours (ICD-O-3 codes: 8442, 8444, 8451, 8462, 8463, 8472, 8473)
810 were excluded from the analysis of distribution of morphological subtypes (see text).811 ^b No information on grade was available, therefore all endometrioid tumours were
812 classified as type I epithelial.813 ^c No information on grade was available, therefore all serous tumours were classified
814 as type II epithelial.815 ^d Morphologically verified tumours with ICD-O-3 morphology codes 8000-8004. Only
816 countries with at least 100 women in any given time period were included. All
817 tumours with a specific ICD-O-3 morphology code were included.

818

819 **Supplementary Table 2.** Distribution of type I and type II epithelial subtypes by
820 calendar period of diagnosis^a821 ^a Borderline tumours (ICD-O-3 codes: 8442, 8444, 8451, 8462, 8463, 8472, 8473)
822 were excluded from the analysis of distribution of morphological subtypes (see text).823 ^b No information on grade was available, therefore all endometrioid tumours were
824 classified as type I epithelial.825 ^c No information on grade was available, therefore all serous tumours were classified
826 as type II epithelial.827 ^d Morphologically verified tumours with ICD-O-3 morphology codes 8000-8004. Only

828 countries with at least 100 women in any given time period were included. All
829 tumours with a specific ICD-O-3 morphology code were included.
830

831 **Supplementary Table 3.** Distribution of type I and type II epithelial subtypes by
832 continent calendar period of diagnosis^a

833 ^a Borderline tumours (ICD-O-3 codes: 8442, 8444, 8451, 8462, 8463, 8472, 8473)
834 were excluded from the analysis of distribution of morphological subtypes (see text).

835 ^b No information on grade was available, therefore all endometrioid tumours were
836 classified as type I epithelial.

837 ^c No information on grade was available, therefore all serous tumours were classified
838 as type II epithelial.

839 ^d Morphologically verified tumours with ICD-O-3 morphology codes 8000-8004. Only
840 countries with at least 100 women in any given time period were included. All
841 tumours with a specific ICD-O-3 morphology code were included.
842

843 **Supplementary Table 4.** Distribution of morphological groups by country and
844 calendar period of diagnosis^a

845 ^a Borderline tumours (ICD-O-3 codes: 8442, 8444, 8451, 8462, 8463, 8472, 8473)
846 were excluded from the analysis of distribution of morphological subtypes (see text).

847 ^b No information on grade was available, therefore all endometrioid tumours were
848 classified as type I epithelial.

849 ^c No information on grade was available, therefore all serous tumours were classified
850 as type II epithelial.

851 ^d Morphologically verified tumours with ICD-O-3 morphology codes 8000-8004. Only
852 countries with at least 100 women in any given time period were included. All
853 tumours with a specific ICD-O-3 morphology code were included.
854

855 **Supplementary Table 5.** Distribution of type I and type II epithelial subtypes by
856 country and calendar period of diagnosis^a

857 ^a Borderline tumours (ICD-O-3 codes: 8442, 8444, 8451, 8462, 8463, 8472, 8473)
858 were excluded from the analysis of distribution of morphological subtypes (see text).

859 ^b No information on grade was available, therefore all endometrioid tumours were
860 classified as type I epithelial.

861 ^c No information on grade was available, therefore all serous tumours were classified
862 as type II epithelial.

863 ^d Morphologically verified tumours with ICD-O-3 morphology codes 8000-8004. Only
864 countries with at least 100 women in any given time period were included. All
865 tumours with a specific ICD-O-3 morphology code were included.

866 **List of figures**

867 **Figure 1.** Worldwide distribution of ovarian cancer^a morphology (%): 51 countries,
868 1995-2009

869 ^a Malignancies of the ovary (ICD-O-3 C56.9), fallopian tube, uterine ligaments and
870 adnexa, and other and unspecified female genital organs (C57.0-C57.4, C57.7-
871 C57.9), and peritoneum and retroperitoneum (C48.0-C48.2). Endometrioid tumours
872 are classified as type I epithelial (see text).

873 **Figure 2.** Morphological groups of ovarian cancer^a: distribution by continent, 2005-
874 09

875 ^a Malignancies of the ovary (ICD-O-3 C56.9), fallopian tube, uterine ligaments and
876 adnexa, and other and unspecified female genital organs (C57.0-C57.4, C57.7-
877 C57.9), and peritoneum and retroperitoneum (C48.0-C48.2). Endometrioid tumours
878 are classified as type I epithelial (see text).

879 **Figure 3.** Morphological groups of ovarian cancer^a by country (Asia), 2005-09

880 ^a Malignancies of the ovary (ICD-O-3 C56.9), fallopian tube, uterine ligaments and
881 adnexa, and other and unspecified female genital organs (C57.0-C57.4, C57.7-
882 C57.9), and peritoneum and retroperitoneum (C48.0-C48.2). Endometrioid tumours
883 are classified as type I epithelial (see text). *Data with 100% coverage of the national
884 population.

885

886 **Supplementary Figure 1.** Flow chart of data exclusions

887

888 **Supplementary Figure 2.** Morphological groups by ovarian cancer^a by country
889 (Central and South America), 2005-09

890 ^a Malignancies of the ovary (ICD-O-3 C56.9), fallopian tube, uterine ligaments and
891 adnexa, and other and unspecified female genital organs (C57.0-C57.4, C57.7-
892 C57.9), and peritoneum and retroperitoneum (C48.0-C48.2). Endometrioid tumours
893 are classified as type I epithelial (see text). *Data with 100% coverage of the national
894 population.

895

896 **Supplementary Figure 3.** Morphological groups of ovarian cancer^a by country
897 (North America), 2005-09

898 ^a Malignancies of the ovary (ICD-O-3 C56.9), fallopian tube, uterine ligaments and
899 adnexa, and other and unspecified female genital organs (C57.0-C57.4, C57.7-
900 C57.9), and peritoneum and retroperitoneum (C48.0-C48.2). Endometrioid tumours
901 are classified as type I epithelial (see text). *Data with 100% coverage of the national
902 population.

903

904 **Supplementary Figure 4.** Morphological groups of ovarian cancer^a by country
905 (Europe), 2005-09

906 ^a Malignancies of the ovary (ICD-O-3 C56.9), fallopian tube, uterine ligaments and
907 adnexa, and other and unspecified female genital organs (C57.0-C57.4, C57.7-
908 C57.9), and peritoneum and retroperitoneum (C48.0-C48.2). Endometrioid tumours
909 are classified as type I epithelial (see text). *Data with 100% coverage of the national
910 population.

911

912 **Supplementary Figure 5.** Morphological groups of ovarian cancer^a by country
913 (Oceania), 2005-09

914 ^a Malignancies of the ovary (ICD-O-3 C56.9), fallopian tube, uterine ligaments and
915 adnexa, and other and unspecified female genital organs (C57.0-C57.4, C57.7-
916 C57.9), and peritoneum and retroperitoneum (C48.0-C48.2). Endometrioid tumours
917 are classified as type I epithelial (see text). *Data with 100% coverage of the national
918 population.