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Tumor markers: Cancer cells leave traces in the blood

For a long time, scientists and doctors had high hopes of finding a characteristic substance for each type of cancer, so a simple blood test would have become a "cancer test".

These expectations have not yet been fulfilled.

However, new studies have now shown that the precautionary examination of the tumor markers Ca 12-5 and HE4 in conjunction with a vaginal ultrasound examination can lead to an improved early detection of tumors of the ovaries if further examination methods are used in the case of increased tumor markers (Doppler sonography and MRI tomography).

This also applies to patients after surgical removal of the ovaries.

Cancer of the ovaries is a rather rare, but also very malignant disease. The use of tumor markers as a screening method should generally be viewed skeptically. It is not uncommon for increased tumor markers to unsettle patients without further findings – which is why further support methods and, if necessary, controls should be consulted.

Decide in consultation with your gynecologist whether such an examination makes sense for you.