Laying hens are the only widely available and easily accessible animals that develop OVCA and leiomyoma (fibroids, a type of uterine tumor) spontaneously. This study examined the suitability of laying hen as a model to generate information on early changes associated with OVCA development and their detection to establish an early detection test.

Absence of an effective early detection test makes ovarian cancer (OVCA) a fatal malignancy of women. OVCA, in most cases, is detected at late stages when the 5-year rates of survival of patients become <30% as opposed to the >90% if detected at early stage with the tumor is limited to the ovary. Non-specificity symptoms at early stage and the problems of access to early stage patients are significant barriers to the development of an early detection test. Thus, an animal model of spontaneous OVCA is urgently needed.

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The laying hen: a model of spontaneous ovarian cancer
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