

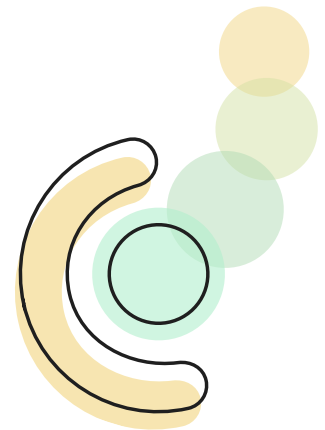
# Understanding Platinum-Resistant Ovarian Cancer

## What is platinum-resistant ovarian cancer?

Over time, your treatment may not work as well as it did before, and your ovarian cancer may get worse (progress) or come back (recur). **Platinum-resistant ovarian cancer (PROC)** is the term used for when the cancer does not improve or progresses during therapy, or recurs within 6 months of treatment.

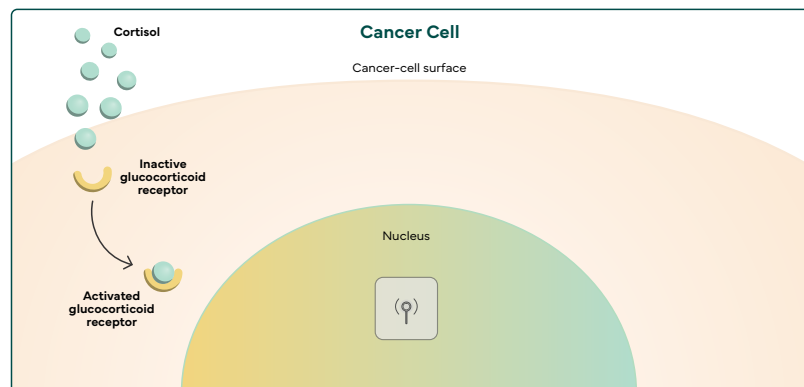
## How chemotherapy works

Chemotherapy works by forcing cancer cells to shut down and eventually die. This cell death happens through a process known as **apoptosis**—the body's built-in system for removing damaged and unneeded cells. Apoptosis occurs naturally in the body, but chemotherapy can trigger the process in cancer cells to help get rid of them.

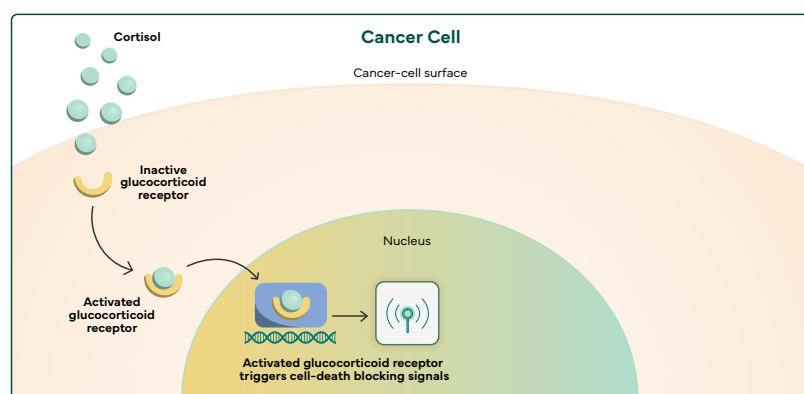


**Some cancer cells find ways to avoid cell death. When this happens, chemotherapy becomes less effective, and the cancer can still grow.**

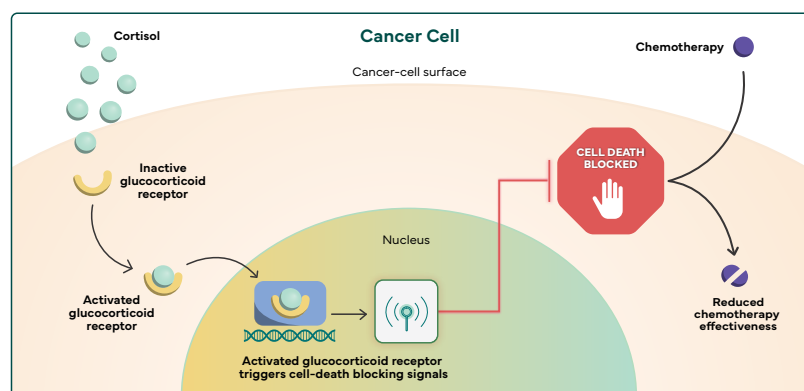
## How chemotherapy can stop working



One way chemotherapy can stop working involves the body's stress hormone, **cortisol**. Cortisol is a natural hormone that helps regulate metabolism, manage stress, and carry out other important cell functions. Cortisol works by attaching to and activating proteins called **glucocorticoid receptors**.



When cortisol binds to the glucocorticoid receptor, the receptor sends signals that normally help healthy cells avoid cell death (**apoptosis**) when it's not needed. However, cancer cells can take advantage of this. Ovarian cancer cells may have more glucocorticoid receptors than normal cells and can help cancer cells avoid apoptosis.



These signals can block cell death, even during chemotherapy treatment. This allows cancer cells to survive and grow because **chemotherapy is no longer working**.

## Talking with your doctor



If your cancer becomes platinum resistant, there are still management options you can explore. Download the [Care Team Discussion Guide](#) and use it to ask your doctor about treatment options, how to work with your care team, and other important topics during your appointment.

Scan the QR code or visit [IlluminateRecurrence.com](https://illuminaterecurrence.com) to learn more.