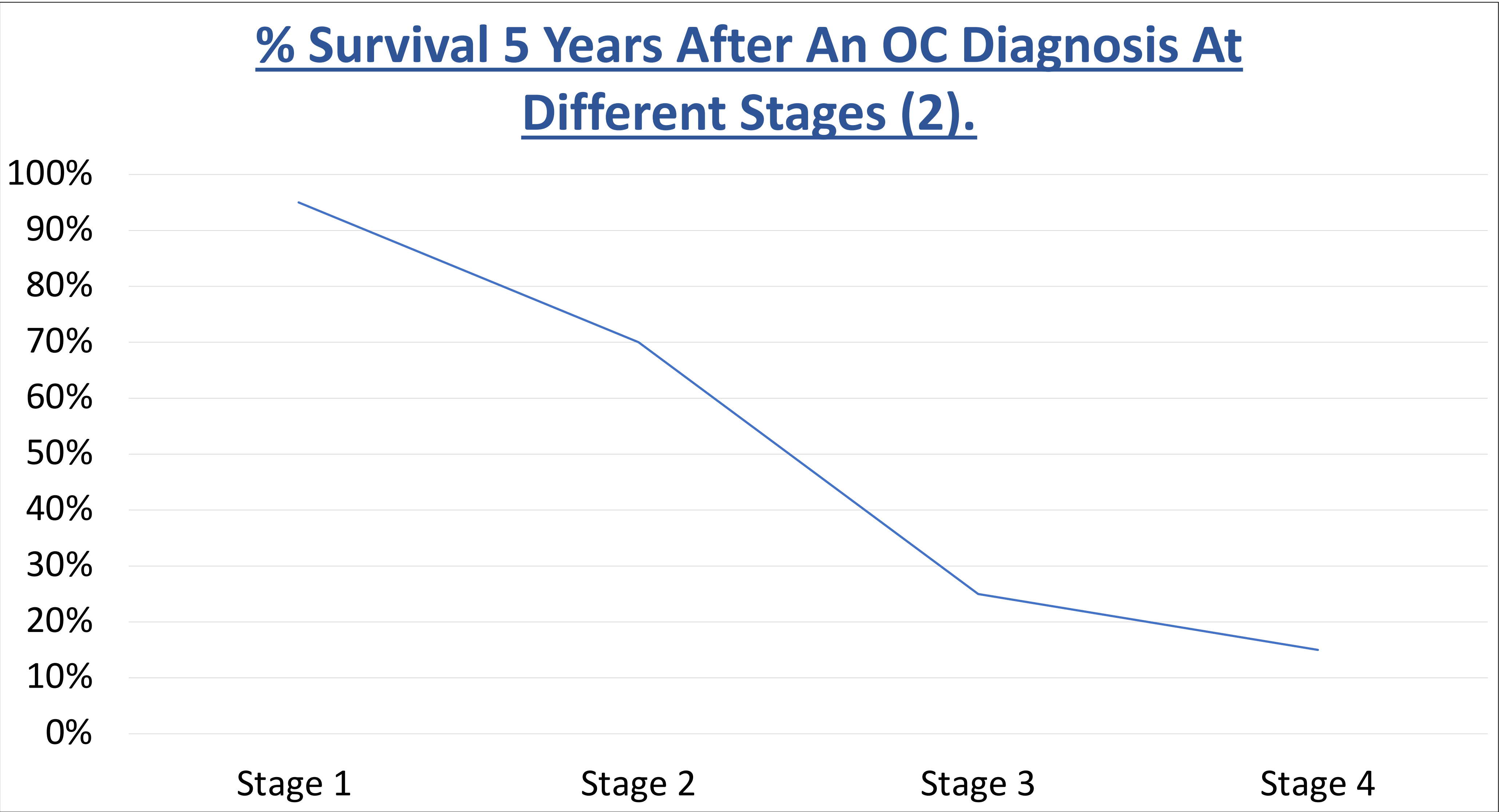


Early diagnosis of ovarian cancer in primary care: opportunities and hurdles

Why is this an important topic?

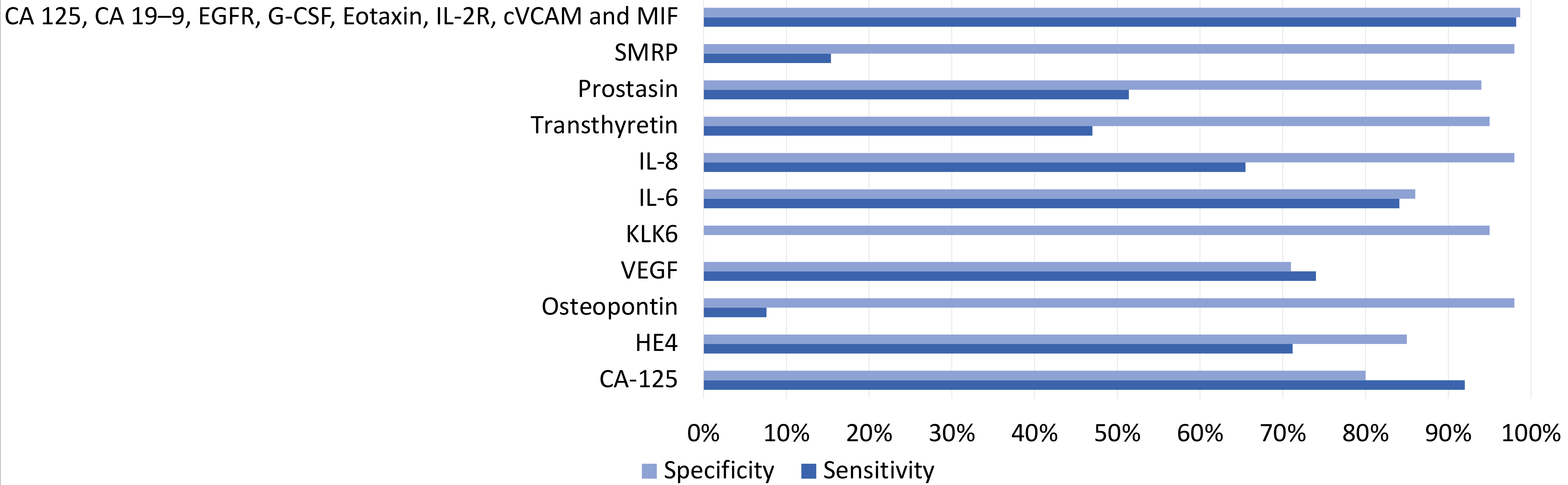
Only **30%** of ovarian cancer (OC) cases are diagnosed in the early stages (1).



What are the current limitations to making an early and accurate diagnosis?

1. The lack of awareness among the general public regarding the core OC symptoms means patients present at a more advanced stage.
2. GPs can often act as a “gatekeeper” to secondary care.
3. There is no sensitive and specific screening test for OC.

A Graph To Show The Sensitivity And Specificity Of Different Biomarkers For The Early Diagnosis Of Ovarian Cancer (4).



What can we do to improve?

1. Education – the use of social media advertisement is now the most effective way to educate the general public (3).
2. Implementing trans-vaginal ultrasound scans to all GP practices will ensure all patients follow the recommended referral pathway, reducing the GPs ‘gatekeeping’ nature.
3. CA-125, currently used to diagnose OC, only has a specificity of 80% (4). Multi–biomarker panels could improve the sensitivity and specificity. Screening could then be implemented, increasing the number of cases diagnosed in the early stages.

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