Women have used the pill for years as a method of birth control for birth control and to manage symptoms of a number of different health conditions. Now, Mayo Clinic researchers have found that women with ovarian cancer, who have a history of taking oral contraceptives, may have better outcomes.

"We think that this observation may potentially have some therapeutic potential, that we might be able to find out ways to intervene once patients have the tumor and result in their, again, doing better in that period during which they developed the cancer."

Study author Mayo Clinic oncologist Dr. Aminah Jatoi says they're not sure how the pill improves outcomes...but they say it may have to do with stopping ovulation... or that contraceptive use may result in women developing a less aggressive form of the disease at a later date.

"Much of these results need to be confirmed."

Dr. Jatoi reminds us that more research is certainly needed, but that this new information may give hope to women with the disease. This study is published in the journal BMC Cancer.