**Sanitary Pads' Impact on Women's Breast and Ovarian Cancer**

**Muskan Sahu, Darshana Maheshwari, Abhilasha Guatam**

Department of biotechnology, Kanpur Institute of Technology, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, 208001, India.

**Abstract**

Breast cancer is a multifaceted and diverse condition marked by the uncontrolled proliferation of cells within the breast tissue. Following skin cancer, it ranks as the second most prevalent cancer among women in the United States. The typical manifestation of breast cancer involves the identification of an abnormal lump, distinct from the surrounding breast tissue, with over 80% of cases being detected through manual examination. Ongoing scientific investigations are dedicated to deciphering the genetic and environmental elements that contribute to the development of breast cancer, with the ultimate goal of advancing personalized treatments and preventive approaches. Notably, in the year 2020, there were 2.3 million reported cases of breast cancer in women, resulting in 685,000 global fatalities.Ovarian cancer, a less prevalent but more perilous gynecological malignancy in comparison to others such as cervical cancer, raises concerns about the potential health risks associated with commonly used sanitary napkins. Many individuals rely on sanitary pads for menstrual hygiene, but there is a growing awareness of the need to investigate whether these products could contribute to cancer. Ongoing studies are exploring the connection between the use of sanitary pads containing absorptive agents like dioxin and super-absorbent polymers and the incidence of genital cancer. The concern arises from the possibility of dioxin, a carcinogenic substance found in bleached sanitary pads, accumulating in the body and affecting reproductive organs, potentially leading to cervical or ovarian cancer. The bleaching process, intended to enhance absorbency, introduces dioxin into the pads. In India, cervical cancer accounts for 16.5% of all cancer cases in women, underscoring the importance of understanding potential links between sanitary pad use and cancer risk.