
What is cervical cancer?

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Cancer is a disease in which cells in the body grow out of control. Cancer is always named for the part of the body where it starts, even if it spreads to other body parts later.

When cancer starts in the cervix, it is called cervical cancer. The cervix is the lower, narrow end of the uterus.

Cervical cancer is the easiest gynecologic cancer to prevent with regular screening tests and follow-up. It is also highly curable when found and treated early.

Who can get cervical cancer?

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All women are at risk for cervical cancer. It occurs most often in women over age 30.

The human papillomavirus (HPV) is the main cause of cervical cancer. HPV is a common virus that is passed from one person to another during sex.

What are the symptoms of cervical cancer?

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Early on, cervical cancer may not cause signs or symptoms. Advanced cervical cancer may cause bleeding or discharge from the vagina that is not normal for you. If you have any of these signs, see your doctor.

How can I prevent cervical cancer?

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See your doctor regularly for a Pap and/or HPV test. Follow up with your doctor if your cervical cancer screening test results are not normal. Get the HPV vaccine. It protects against the types of HPV that most often cause cervical cancer.

What age should screening pap test begin?

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Women ages 21 to 65 can be tested every three years.

Women ages 30 and older can be tested every five years if the procedure is combined with HPV testing.

If you have certain risk factors your health care provider may recommend more frequent pap test regardless of your age.

ENCOURAGE YOUR LOVED ONES TO BE SCREENED FOR CERVICAL CANCER.


