

Cervical Cancer Fact Sheet



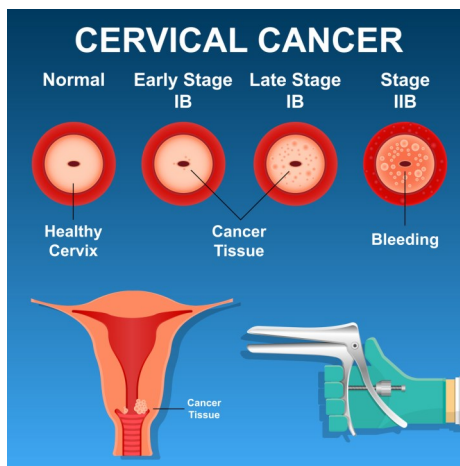
Cancer Health Facts

Awareness. Hope. Believe. Cure. Love. Early Detection. We Can Win This Fight.

What is Cervical Cancer?

The cervix is the lower, narrow end of the uterus. When cancer starts in the cervix, it is called cervical cancer. Also known as the womb, the uterus is where a baby grows when a woman is pregnant. The cervix connects the upper part of the uterus to the vagina (the birth canal).

The main types of cervical cancer are squamous cell carcinoma and adenocarcinoma. Squamous cell carcinoma begins in the thin, flat cells that line the cervix. Adenocarcinoma begins in cervical cells that make mucus and other fluids.



All women are at risk for cervical cancer. It occurs most often in women over the age of 30. Each year, about 12,000 women in the United States get cervical cancer and over 4,000 women die from it.

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. At least half of sexually active people will have HPV at some point in their lives, but few women will get cervical cancer.

Long-lasting infections with certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV) cause almost all cases of cervical cancer. Vaccines that protect against infection with these types of HPV can greatly reduce the risk of cervical cancer. Having a Pap test to check for abnormal cells in the cervix or a test to check for HPV can find cells that may become cervical cancer. These cells can be treated before cancer forms.

Cervical cancer can usually be cured if it is found and treated in the early stages.

Numbers at a Glance

12,820

Each year 12,820 women in the United States get cervical cancer.

70.9%

American Indians have cervical cancer rates up to 70.9% higher than Non-Hispanic Whites.

4,210

Number of women who die from cervical cancer each year.

2X



American Indian women are nearly 2 times more likely to develop cervical cancer than white women.

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Causes of Cervical Cancer

Most cervical cancer is caused by a virus called human papillomavirus, or HPV. You can get HPV by having sexual contact with someone who has it. There are many types of the HPV virus. Not all types of HPV cause cervical cancer. Some of them cause genital warts, but other types may not cause any symptoms.

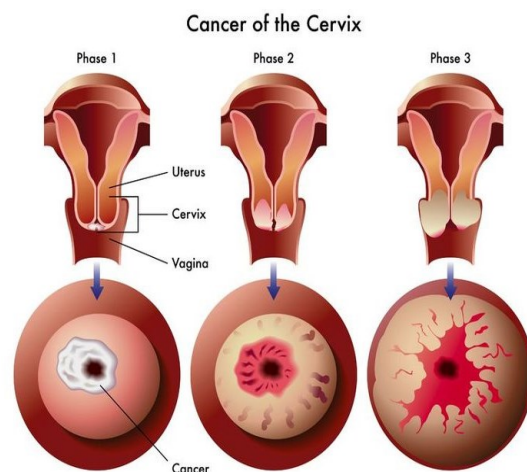
Most adults have been infected with HPV at some time. An infection may go away on its own. But sometimes it can cause genital warts or lead to cervical cancer. That's why it's important for women to have regular Pap tests. A Pap test can find changes in cervical cells before they turn into cancer. If you treat these cell changes, you may prevent cervical cancer. During a Pap test, the doctor scrapes a small sample of cells from the surface of the cervix to look for cell changes. If a Pap test shows abnormal cell changes, your doctor may do other tests to look for precancerous or cancer cells on your cervix.

Signs & Symptoms of Cervical Cancer

Abnormal cervical cell changes rarely cause symptoms. But you may have symptoms if those cell changes grow into cervical cancer. Symptoms of cervical cancer may include:

- Bleeding from the vagina that is not normal, such as bleeding between menstrual periods, after sex, or after menopause.
- Pain in the lower belly or pelvis.
- Pain during sex.
- Vaginal discharge that isn't normal.

As part of your regular pelvic exam, you should have a Pap test. Your doctor may also do a Pap test and take a sample of tissue (biopsy), if you have symptoms of cervical cancer, such as bleeding after sex.



Source: <http://www.healthandfitnessstalk.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/cervical-cancer.jpg>

Treatment for Cervical Cancer

The treatment for most stages of cervical cancer includes: Surgery, such as a hysterectomy and removal of pelvic lymph nodes with or without removal of both ovaries and fallopian tubes, Chemotherapy, and Radiation therapy. Depending on how much the cancer has grown, you may have one or more treatments. And you may have a combination of treatments. If you have a hysterectomy, you won't be able to have children. But a hysterectomy isn't always needed, especially when cancer is found very early. Finding out that you have cancer can change your life. You may feel like your world has turned upside down and you have lost all control. Talking with family, friends, or a counselor can really help. Ask your doctor about support groups, or call the American Cancer Society (1-800-227-2345) or visit its website at www.cancer.org.



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