

KNOW THE SIGNS: VAGINAL AND VULVAR CANCER

- Vaginal cancer begins in the vagina, the muscular tube that connects the outer part of the female genitalia (vulva) to the uterus. Most vaginal cancers occur in the lining of the vagina
- The vulva includes the labia majora (outer lips), the labia minora (inner lips), the clitoris and the opening of the vagina. Vulvar cancer most often affects the inner edges of the labia majora or the labia minora

Symptoms of Vaginal Cancer

- Unusual vaginal bleeding
- Bleeding after vaginal sex
- Pain
- Problems with urination or bowel movements
- Watery discharge
- Lump or mass in the vagina

Symptoms of Vulvar Cancer

- Chronic itching
- Abnormal bleeding or discharge
- Skin color changes (lighter or darker, red or pink)
- Bump or lump with wart-like or raw surfaces
- Open sore

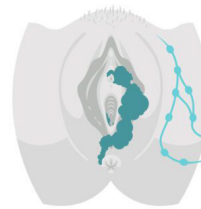
Stages of Vulvar Cancer



Stage 1: The cancer is confined to the vulva or perineum—the area between the anus and the vulva.



Stage 2: The cancer has spread to the urethra, anus or vagina.



Stage 3: The cancer has spread to the lymph nodes—the presence and extent of lymph node involvement is an important factor in the determining the risk of recurrence.



Stage 4: In addition to spreading to nearby lymph nodes, the cancer has spread to distant body parts.

What can you do to prevent or detect vaginal or vulvar cancer early?

- Get the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine before becoming sexually active
- Schedule regular check-ups, including pelvic exams
- Use a mirror to examine your vulva for any changes
- See a doctor if you experience any symptoms