

KNOW THE SIGNS: CERVICAL CANCER

- Most cases of cervical cancer are now preventable
- Vaccinating young children before they become sexually active can prevent cervical precancer and cancer
- Regular Pap tests and HPV testing at recommended intervals are equally important in preventing cervical cancer

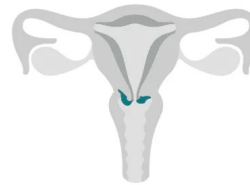
Symptoms

- Vaginal odor
- Pain
- Bleeding after intercourse
- Excessive discharge and abnormal bleeding between periods

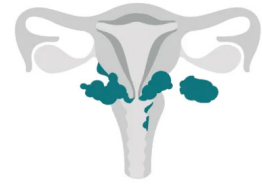
These symptoms may be caused by cancer or by other health problems. **It is important for a woman to see her doctor if she is having any of these symptoms.**

Most women will have no symptoms, so getting vaccinations and regular Pap tests plus HPV tests when recommended is key to preventing cervical cancer.

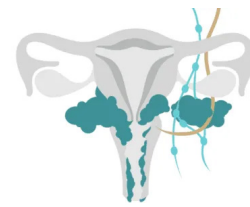
Stages of Cervical Cancer



Stage 1: The cancer is found only in the cervix



Stage 2: The cancer has spread from the cervix to the upper part of the vagina or the tissue around the uterus.



Stage 3: The cancer has spread to the lower part of the vagina or to the pelvic wall. It may block the flow of urine to the bladder. Cancer cells may also be found in the lymph nodes in the pelvis.



Stage 4: The cancer has spread to other body parts within or outside the pelvis. Cancer cells may be found in the bladder, rectum, abdomen, liver, intestines or lungs.

Risk Factors

- Almost all cervical cancer is caused by a persistent infection with the human papillomavirus, or HPV
- Cervical cancer usually affects women between 30 and 50, but younger women also are at risk
- Smoking weakens the immune system and a weakened immune system can lead to persistent HPV infection

Risk Reduction

- Get vaccinated before you become sexually active
- Have your children vaccinated starting at age 11 or 12
- Get Pap tests and HPV tests at the intervals recommended by your health care provider