

Fast Facts

Cervical Cancer

- All cancers are the same in that the cells grow and multiple at a rate that is out of control and don't die like normal cells do. This results in a mass (tumor) being formed and, eventually, the cancer cells break off from the tumor and spread (metastasize) to other parts of the body
- Cervical cancer = cancer cells in the cervix (lower part of the uterus connected to the vagina)
- Two main types, squamous cell carcinoma and adenocarcinoma (both types can be present)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) plays a role in the development of cervical cancer

<i>Symptoms</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Prevention</i>
<p><i>Early Stage:</i> -No symptoms</p> <p><i>Advanced Stage:</i> -Vaginal bleeding after intercourse, between periods or after menopause -Watery/bloody vaginal discharge that is heavy and has a foul odor -Pelvic pain -Pain during intercourse</p>	<p>-Diagnose it early through screening starting at 21 via Pap test (doctor scrapes and brushes cells from the cervix and then they are examined in a lab to look for any abnormalities)</p> <p>-May need surgery, radiation, chemotherapy or a combination of the three</p> <p><i>Early Stage:</i> -Hysterectomy--simple (cervix, uterus and cancer removal) or radical (cervix, uterus, part of the vagina, lymph nodes and cancer removal)</p> <p><i>Advance Stage:</i> -Radiation (external or internal) -Chemotherapy</p> <p>-Preserve eggs before any treatment if you would like to have children -Use palliative care to manage pain -Have a good support network of family, friends and counselor</p>	<p><i>Prevent HPV:</i> -Vaccine available for children and adults (male and female) from the age of 9 through 47 (most effective if given prior to an individual becoming sexually active)</p> <p><i>Practice safe sex habits:</i> -Use condoms -Limit the number of sexual partners -Delay when you start having intercourse</p> <p>For women, have routine Pap tests starting at 21</p>

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