

Fast Facts

Cervical Cancer

- All cancers are the same in that the cells grow and multiply 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

Symptoms	Treatment	Prevention
<p><i>Early Stage:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-No symptoms <p><i>Advanced Stage:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-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)-May need surgery, radiation, chemotherapy or a combination of the three <p><i>Early Stage:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Hysterectomy--simple (cervix, uterus and cancer removal) or radical (cervix, uterus, part of the vagina, lymph nodes and cancer removal) <p><i>Advance Stage:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Radiation (external or internal)-Chemotherapy <ul style="list-style-type: none">-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><i>Prevent HPV:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-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><i>Practice safe sex habits:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Use condoms-Limit the number of sexual partners-Delay when you start having intercourse <p>For women, have routine Pap tests starting at 21</p>

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