

Cervical Cancer



WHAT IS CERVICAL CANCER?

Cervical cancer occurs when abnormal cells on the cervix grow out of control. The cervix is the lower, narrowed part of the uterus that connects the vagina to the upper part of the uterus.

WHAT'S ALL THIS TALK ABOUT SCREENING?

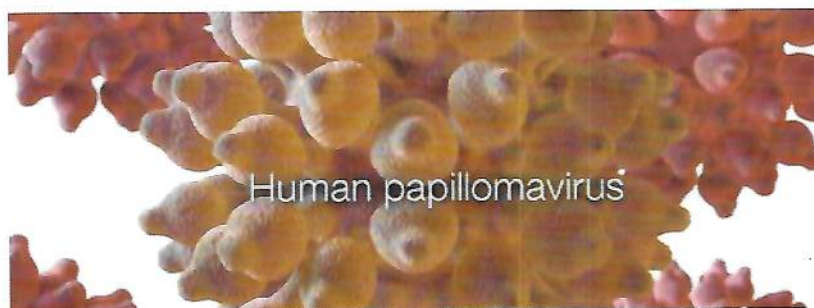
Cervical cancer can be found early and even prevented with routine screening tests. The Pap test is the main screening test for cervical cancer and pre-cancerous changes. It's especially important for women who have risk factors to get regular pap tests to detect cervical cancer early. More than half of the women in the United States who get cervical cancer have never had or rarely had a pap test. Regular screening tests can prevent cervical cancer.

WHO'S AT RISK?

Cervical cancer generally occurs in midlife. Most cases are found in women younger than 50, but rarely develops in women younger than 20. Many older women do not realize that the risk of developing cervical cancer is still present as they age. In the U.S. in 2016, an estimated 12,990 new cases of invasive cervical cancer will be diagnosed, and about 4,120 women will die from cervical cancer.

ARE THERE CERVICAL CANCER DISPARITIES?

Hispanic women are diagnosed at rates 65% higher than White women, followed by African-Americans at 45%, and other racial minorities. The highest death rate of cervical cancer is among African-American women, who were nearly three times as likely to die from cervical cancer compared to White women of the same age group. The primary reason for the disparity in cervical cancer is due to lack of screening, which is a direct result of unequal access to healthcare. Cervical cancer is one of the successfully treated cancers when found at an early stage, with a 92% 5-year survival rate. However, White women are more likely than African-American women to be diagnosed at early stages, due to greater rates of screening. Older Hispanic women have the lowest screening rates of any race group.



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