

Title: Cervical Cancer: What you should know!

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Abstract: Basic information regarding cause, risk factors, and screening for cervical cancer.

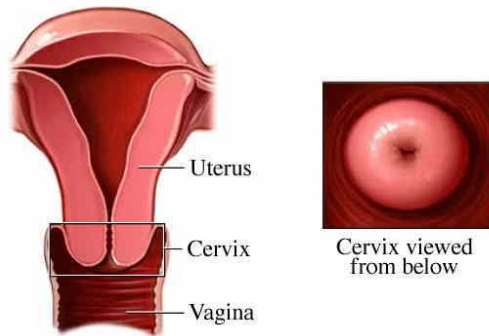
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# Cervical Cancer:

## What you need to know

### What is cervical cancer?

The cervix is the lower part of the womb or uterus. Cancer is when some cells grow faster than they should. Eventually, those cells begin to invade organs and tissue nearby.



### What causes cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer is caused by the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). HPV is usually a sexually transmitted disease.

### Who can get cervical cancer?

Anyone with a cervix! Most cases happen between the ages of 21 to 65. Poverty, unsafe sex, smoking, poor diet, and a family history of cervical cancer all increase a person's chance of getting cervical cancer.

### How can I prevent cervical cancer?

There is a new vaccine to prevent HPV infection. If you are between ages 9-26, you should talk to your doctor about getting vaccinated. However, the vaccine does not guarantee you won't get cervical cancer. The single most important thing you can do to prevent cervical cancer is to get regular PAP smears.

### What's a PAP smear?

A PAP smear is when a doctor takes a sample of your cervical cells with a small brush. The cells are then placed in a liquid and sent to a laboratory where they are looked at under a microscope by another doctor called a Pathologist. The Pathologist looks for any abnormal cells.

### What's if there are abnormal cells?

Your doctor can remove the abnormal cells before they start invading nearby tissues.