

CERVICAL CANCER

*It is estimated that **12,000 women** are diagnosed each year with cervical cancer. Cervical Cancer is the most preventable type of female cancer. Two screening tests can help detect cervical cancer early.*



WHAT IS CERVICAL CANCER?

Cervical cancer is the most preventable type of female cancer. Two screening tests can help detect cervical cancer early.

✓ **Pap Smear:** Looks for abnormal cells on your cervix which could turn into cancer over time. It is one of the most reliable and effective cancer screening tests available. The only cancer for which the Pap test screens is cervical cancer. It does not screen for ovarian, uterine, vaginal, or vulvar cancers.

✓ **HPV Test:** Looks for the Human Papillomavirus. Some HPV types can cause changes on a woman's cervix that can lead to cervical cancer over time

WHEN TO BEGIN SCREENING?

- Women should start getting regular Pap tests at **age 21**.
- For women 21–65 years old, it is important for you to continue getting a Pap test as directed by your doctor.
- If you are over 65 years old, have had normal Pap test results for several years, or if you have had your cervix removed, your doctor may tell you that you no longer need to have a Pap test.
- If you notice any signs or symptoms that are unusual for you, see a doctor to find out why you're having them.

WHAT IS HPV?

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a group of more than 150 related viruses.

- Some HPV types cause warts.
- Some HPV types can cause cervical cancer.
- More than 40 HPV types can infect the genitals of men and women.

HOW DO YOU GET HPV?

- HPV is transmitted through vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has the virus. It is most commonly spread during vaginal or anal sex.
- HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI).

HPV VACCINE:

There are vaccines that can prevent infection with the most common types of HPV for males and females.

- HPV vaccines are given as a series of three shots over 6 months
- All children, 11 or 12 years old, should get the three-dose series of HPV vaccine.
- Teens who did not start or finish the HPV vaccine series when they were younger should get it now.
- Typically, women can get the HPV vaccine through age 26 and men through age 21.

Want to schedule an appointment?

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