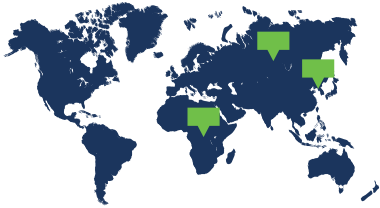




Cervical Cancer



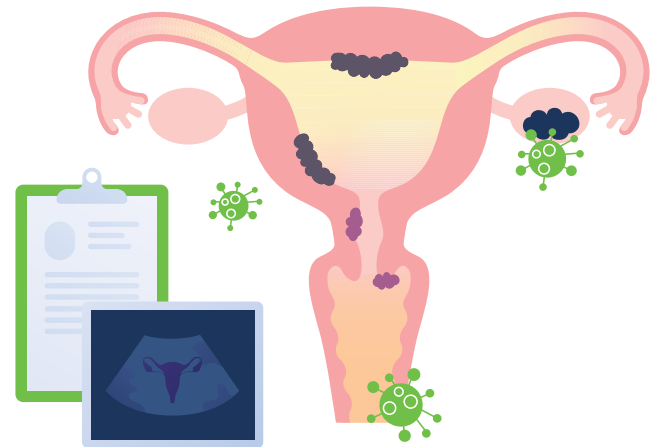
About 13,820 new cases of invasive cervical cancer were diagnosed in 2024



50 is the average age of cervical cancer diagnosis

What is cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer is the overgrowth of abnormal cells lining the cervix, the lower part of the uterus that connects the body of the uterus to the vagina. Changes in tissue cells can be referred to as cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN), squamous intraepithelial lesion (SIL), and dysplasia. It's important to note that not all tissue changes result in cancer. The two tests that screen for cervical cancer are the Pap test and HPV test. Pre-cancerous changes can be found early through screening. Screening tests available through OB-GYN offices or primary care providers who offer this service. Please click [HERE](#) for additional information.



Did you know?

Increased screening and prevention from HPV vaccination has decreased cervical cancer rates between 2012-2019.

Two main types of cervical cancer:

1. **Squamous cell carcinomas** - Most common type - Develop from cells in the exocervix
2. **Adenocarcinomas** - Develop from glandular cells

Sometimes, cervical cancers have features of both. Other types of cancers, such as **melanoma**, **sarcoma**, and **lymphoma** can also be found in the cervix.

Risk Factors for Cervical Cancer

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection
- Increased number of sexual partners and earlier age of activity
- Smoking
- Having a weakened immune system
- Chlamydia infection and other STIs
- Long-term use of birth control pills
- Having multiple full-term pregnancies
- Exposure to DES between 1938 and 1971

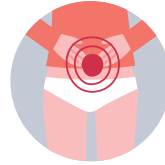
Symptoms:



Vaginal bleeding



Changes in menstrual cycle



Pelvic pain or pain during intercourse



Malodorous and bloody vaginal discharge

PREVENTION

- ✓ Routine Pap and HPV tests to detect precancerous cells
- ✓ HPV vaccine may reduce your risk of cervical cancer, genital warts, and other HPV-related cancers (vaccine not recommended by American Cancer Society for persons older than 26 years)
- ✓ Practice safe sex
- ✓ Avoid smoking to reduce overall risk of all cancers



Sources: [Mayoclinic.org](https://www.mayoclinic.org) | [Cancer.org](https://www.cancer.org)