

## Cervical cancer:



Cervical cancer is one of the most common female cancers that develops in a woman's cervix (the entrance to the uterus from the vagina); due to the presence of abnormal growth of the cells that make up this part. Various strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted infection, play a role in causing most cervical cancer.

### Symptoms:

The early stage of cervical cancer generally has no signs or symptoms.

Signs and symptoms of more-advanced cervical cancer include:

- Vaginal bleeding after intercourse, between periods or after menopause
- Watery, bloody vaginal discharge that may be heavy and have a foul odor

- Pelvic pain or pain during intercourse

## **What causes cervical cancer:**

It isn't decided what causes cervical cancer, but it's certain that HPV plays a role. HPV is very common, and most people with the virus never develop cancer. This means other factors like the environment or the lifestyle choices determine if you develop cervical cancer.

## **Prevention of cervical cancer:**

To reduce your risk of cervical cancer:

Ask your doctor about the HPV vaccine. Receiving a vaccination to prevent HPV infection may reduce your risk of cervical cancer and other HPV-related cancers. Ask your doctor whether an HPV vaccine is appropriate for you.

## **Treatment:**

Treatment for cervical cancer depends on several factors, such as the stage of the cancer, other health problems you may have and your preferences. Surgery, radiation, chemotherapy or a combination of the three may be used.

### **Surgery**

Early-stage cervical cancer is usually treated with surgery. Which surgery is best for you will depend on the size of your cancer, its stage



and whether you would like to consider becoming pregnant in the future.

## **Radiation**

Radiation therapy uses high-powered energy beams, such as X-rays or protons, to kill cancer cells. Radiation therapy is often combined with chemotherapy as the primary treatment for locally advanced cervical cancers. It can also be used after surgery if there's an increased risk that the cancer will come back.

## **Chemotherapy**

Chemotherapy is a drug treatment that uses chemicals to kill cancer cells.

For locally advanced cervical cancer, low doses of chemotherapy are often combined with radiation therapy, since chemotherapy may enhance the effects of the radiation. Higher doses of chemotherapy might be recommended to help control symptoms of very advanced cancer.

## **Immunotherapy**

Immunotherapy is a drug treatment that helps your immune system to fight cancer. Your body's disease-fighting immune system might not attack cancer because the cancer cells produce proteins that make them undetectable by the immune system cells. Immunotherapy works by interfering with that process. For cervical cancer, immunotherapy might be considered when the cancer is advanced and other treatments aren't working.



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