

Cancer

In this Chapter,
you will learn about:

- Common Types of Cancer (Breast, Cervical and Oral Cancer)
- Risk Factors of Cancer.
- Common Symptoms of Cancer.
- Prevention of Cancer.

What is Cancer?

Cancer is a disease caused by uncontrolled division of cells in any part of the body. This causes abnormal growth of that part of the body. The cancer may also spread to more distant parts of the body through the blood. There are various kinds of cancers that are prevalent in our country. In this module, we are specifically going to address only the three most commonly occurring cancers in India - cancer of the cervix and breast among women and oral cancers in women and men.

These three are commonly occurring cancers in India. Together, they account for approximately 34% of all cancers in India. If these cancers are diagnosed early and treated appropriately, chances of survival are good. Thus, regular screening programmes which can diagnose cancers at early stages are an important preventive health programme.

5.1: Cervical Cancer

Risk Factors for Cervical Cancer

- Multiple sexual partners.
- Unprotected sex.
- Early marriage.
- Early age at first child birth.
- Higher numbers of pregnancy and childbirth.
- Smoking.

