

Common Signs and Symptoms of Cervical Cancer

- Bleeding between periods.
- Bleeding after sexual intercourse.
- Bleeding in post - menopausal women.
- Pain during sexual intercourse.
- Foul smelling vaginal discharge.
- Vaginal discharge tinged with blood.
- Pelvic pain.
- Fatigue.
- Unexplained weight loss.
- Pain during urination.

Screening of Cervical Cancer

Screening would normally be undertaken at a Primary health Centre or Community health Centre by a trained doctor or by a trained nurse or by a gynaecologist. Screening or regular check-ups for cervical cancer are important, since during the early stages, women may experience no symptoms. Cervical cancer is one of the most successfully treatable cancers when detected at early stage. A common method for screening cancer is VIA (Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid).



Screening should be done in a separate room from regular OPD, and if a separate room is not available then a curtain should be used to maintain privacy.

- Approximately 30 women can be screened in a day, so screening should be planned accordingly.
- Once an abnormality is detected, the individual should be referred to a gynaecologist.
- Your role is to mobilise all women over 30 years of age to be screened at least once in five years. For those women with a family history or those who develop these symptoms at any time, this should be done as soon as possible. Such patients should be referred to a health facility at any time.