



National Comprehensive
Cancer Network®

NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®)

Vaginal Cancer

Version 5.2025 — February 28, 2025

NCCN.org

**NCCN recognizes the importance of clinical trials and encourages participation when applicable and available.
Trials should be designed to maximize inclusiveness and broad representative enrollment.**

Continue



National
Comprehensive
Cancer
Network®

NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

[NCCN Guidelines Index](#)
[Table of Contents](#)
[Discussion](#)

***Nadeem R. Abu-Rustum, MD Ω/Chair**
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

***Susana M. Campos, MD, MPH, MS †/ Vice Chair**
Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center

Catheryn M. Yashar, MD §
Immediate Past Vice-Chair
UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Sudha R. Amarnath, MD §
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center/
University Hospitals Seidman Cancer
Center and Cleveland Clinic Taussig
Cancer Institute

Rebecca Arend, MD Ω
O'Neal Comprehensive
Cancer Center at UAB

Emma Barber, MD Ω
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer
Center of Northwestern University

Kristin Bradley, MD §
University of Wisconsin
Carbone Cancer Center

Rebecca Brooks, MD Ω
UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center

Junzo Chino, MD §
Duke Cancer Institute

Hye Sook Chon, MD Ω
Moffitt Cancer Center

Marta Ann Crispens, MD Ω
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Shari Damast, MD §
Yale Cancer Center/
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Christine M. Fisher, MD, MPH §
University of Colorado Cancer Center

Peter Frederick, MD Ω
Roswell Park Comprehensive
Cancer Center

David K. Gaffney, MD, PhD §
Huntsman Cancer Institute
at the University of Utah

***Stephanie Gaillard, MD, PhD †**
Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center

Robert Giuntoli II, MD Ω
Abramson Cancer Center
at the University of Pennsylvania

Scott Glaser, MD §
City of Hope
National Medical Center

Brooke E. Howitt, MD ≠
Stanford Cancer Institute

Lisa Landrum, MD, PhD Ω
Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Jayanthi Lea, MD Ω
UT Southwestern Simmons
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Nita Lee, MD, MPH Ω
The UChicago Medicine
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Gina Mantia-Smaldone, MD Ω
Fox Chase Cancer Center

Andrea Mariani, MD Ω
Mayo Clinic
Comprehensive Cancer Center

David Mutch, MD Ω
Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-
Jewish Hospital and Washington
University School of Medicine

Christa Nagel, MD Ω
The Ohio State University Comprehensive
Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital
and Solove Research Institute

Larissa Nekhlyudov, MD, MPH †
Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's
Cancer Center

Karina Nieto, MD §
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center/
University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center
and Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute

Chika Nwachukwu, MD, PhD §
UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Mirna Podoll, MD ≠
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Kerry Rodabaugh, MD Ω
Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

***Ritu Salani, MD, MBA Ω**
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

John Schorge, MD Ω
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital/
The University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Jean Siedel, DO, MS Ω
University of Michigan
Rogel Cancer Center

Rachel Sisodia, MD Ω
Mass General Cancer Center

Pamela Soliman, MD, MPH Ω
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Stefanie Ueda, MD Ω
UCSF Helen Diller Family
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Renata Urban, MD Ω
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Emily Wyse ¥
Patient Advocate

NCCN
Nicole McMillian, MS
Vaishnavi Sambandam, PhD

Ω Gynecologic oncology	§ Radiotherapy/Radiation oncology
† Internal medicine	
‡ Medical oncology	*Discussion Section Writing Committee
≠ Pathology	
¥ Patient advocacy	

Continue



National
Comprehensive
Cancer
Network®

NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

[NCCN Guidelines Index](#)
[Table of Contents](#)
[Discussion](#)

VAGINAL CANCER SUBCOMMITTEE

Shari Damast, MD §/Lead

Yale Cancer Center/
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Kristin Bradley, MD §

University of Wisconsin
Carbone Cancer Center

Rebecca Brooks, MD Ω

UC Davis Comprehensive
Cancer Center

Junzo Chino, MD §

Duke Cancer Institute

Christine M. Fisher, MD, MPH §

University of Colorado Cancer Center

David K. Gaffney, MD, PhD §

Huntsman Cancer Institute
at the University of Utah

Mirna Podoll, MD ≠

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

John Schorge, MD Ω

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital/
The University of Tennessee Health
Science Center

Catheryn M. Yashar, MD §

UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Continue

Ω Gynecologic oncology
≠ Pathology

§ Radiotherapy/Radiation
oncology



National
Comprehensive
Cancer
Network®

NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

[NCCN Guidelines Index](#)
[Table of Contents](#)
[Discussion](#)

[NCCN Vaginal Cancer Panel Members](#)

[NCCN Vaginal Cancer Subcommittee Members](#)

[Summary of the Guidelines Updates](#)

[Workup \(VAG-1\)](#)

[Invasive \(Stage I–IVA\), Primary Treatment \(VAG-2\)](#)

[Adjuvant Therapy \(VAG-3\)](#)

[Follow-up/Surveillance \(VAG-4\)](#)

[Locoregional Recurrence \(VAG-5\)](#)

[Stage IVB or Recurrent Distant Metastases \(VAG-6\)](#)

[Principles of Pathology \(VAG-A\)](#)

[Principles of Imaging \(VAG-B\)](#)

[Principles of Radiation \(VAG-C\)](#)

[Systemic Therapy for Primary Vaginal Cancer \(VAG-D\)](#)

[Principles of Surgery \(VAG-E\)](#)

[Principles of Gynecologic Survivorship \(VAG-F\)](#)

[Staging \(ST-1\)](#)

[ABBR-1](#)

Find an NCCN Member Institution:
<https://www.nccn.org/home/member-institutions>.

NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

[NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus](#).

NCCN Categories of Preference: All recommendations are considered appropriate.

[NCCN Categories of Preference](#)

The NCCN Guidelines® are a statement of evidence and consensus of the authors regarding their views of currently accepted approaches to treatment. Any clinician seeking to apply or consult the NCCN Guidelines is expected to use independent medical judgment in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine any patient's care or treatment. The National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) makes no representations or warranties of any kind regarding their content, use or application and disclaims any responsibility for their application or use in any way. The NCCN Guidelines are copyrighted by National Comprehensive Cancer Network®. All rights reserved. The NCCN Guidelines and the illustrations herein may not be reproduced in any form without the express written permission of NCCN. ©2025.



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

Updates in Version 5.2025 of the NCCN Guidelines for Vaginal Cancer from Version 4.2025 include:

[MS-1](#)

- The Discussion has been updated to reflect the changes in the algorithm.

Updates in Version 4.2025 of the NCCN Guidelines for Vaginal Cancer from Version 3.2025 include:

[VAG-D 1A of 2](#)

- Footnote j regarding nivolumab and hyaluronidase-nvhy subcutaneous injection was added: Nivolumab and hyaluronidase-nvhy subcutaneous injection may be substituted for IV nivolumab. Nivolumab and hyaluronidase-nvhy has different dosing and administration instructions compared to IV nivolumab.

Updates in Version 3.2025 of the NCCN Guidelines for Vaginal Cancer from Version 2.2025 include:

[VAG-3](#)

- Footnote j added: Principles of Systemic Therapy (VAG-D).
- Footnote removed: ~~Concurrent chemotherapy has been shown in many series to improve outcomes and is often used in stage II–IV disease. Concurrent platinum-containing chemotherapy with EBRT utilizes cisplatin as a single agent (or carboplatin if cisplatin intolerant). See Principles of Systemic Therapy (VAG-D).~~

[VAG-4](#)

- Footnote o revised: "Patient education ~~including~~ *should include* symptoms of potential recurrence, lifestyle..."

[VAG-5](#)

- Locoregional recurrence; Prior EBRT ± brachytherapy; Central disease; Therapy for Relapse; Revised recommendation to streamline the pathway: *Consider reirradiation or local excision* in carefully selected patients.

[VAG-A 2 of 2](#)

- Pathologic Assessment for Vaginal Carcinoma; 11th bullet; Sub-bullets under Ancillary testing revised including:
 - ▶ 5th bullet revised: "HPV-dependent associated vaginal..."
 - ▶ New bullets added:
 - ◇ Recommend p53 IHC to determine p53 status in HPV-negative tumors (next-generation sequencing [NGS] is an acceptable alternative)
 - ◇ Consider programmed death ligand 1 (PD-L1) IHC for patients with recurrent, progressive, or metastatic disease
 - ◇ HER2 IHC (with or without reflex to HER2 fluorescence in situ hybridization [FISH] for equivocal IHC) is recommended for advanced or recurrent/metastatic disease
 - ◇ Consider comprehensive molecular profiling by an FDA-approved assay, or a validated test performed in a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified laboratory including at least microsatellite instability (MSI), tumor mutational burden (TMB) testing, *NTRK*, and *RET* for predicting rare pan-tumor targeted therapy opportunities
 - ◇ Mismatch repair (MMR) by IHC
 - ▶ Bullets removed:
 - ◇ Recommend ancillary testing to determine HPV status either by p16 IHC or RNA in situ hybridization (ISH) or DNA sequencing
 - ◇ Consider next-generation sequencing (NGS) and comprehensive molecular profiling as determined by an FDA-approved assay, or validated test performed in a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified laboratory.
 - ◇ Consider the following biomarkers: Programmed death ligand 1 (PD-L1), Tumor mutational burden (TMB), p53 IHC, RET fusion, Microsatellite instability-high (MSI-H), NTRK fusion, HER2 IHC or FISH



Updates in Version 3.2025 of the NCCN Guidelines for Vaginal Cancer from Version 2.2025 include:

[VAG-B](#)

- Workup; 1st bullet revised: "Pelvis MRI with and without IV contrast and..." The contrast specification was removed from the bullet because the information is in footnote "a".

[VAG-C 2 of 7](#)

- External Beam Radiation Therapy/Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (EBRT/IMRT); 2nd bullet Planning/Treatment; EBRT diamond sub-bullets revised
 - ▶ 1st sub-bullet: "...organs at risk (OAR). Attention *should be given* to internal target motion in planning."
 - ▶ 3rd sub-bullet: A *minimum of* weekly portal images; daily image-guided RT (IGRT) *is advised*, especially if IMRT *is* utilized.

[VAG-C 3 of 7](#)

- Brachytherapy; Dose prescription; 3rd arrow sub-bullet: The sentence stating "The HDR data are more varied..." was a separate arrow sub-bullet and was combined with the sub-bullet regarding very-early stage vaginal cancers (<5 mm).

[VAG-C 5 of 7](#)

- Normal Tissue Dose Constraints; Hard Constraints revised as follows:
 - ▶ Bladder: Dmax <115% <57.5 Gy
 - ▶ Anorectum: Dmax <115% <57.5 Gy
 - ▶ Femoral Heads: Dmax <115% <55 Gy

[VAG-C 6 of 7](#)

- Rectum; ICRU Point (EQD2₃) dose revised: <65 D2 point dose

[VAG-D 1 of 2](#)

- Systemic Therapy for Primary Vaginal Cancer
 - ▶ Recurrent or Metastatic Disease; Second-line or Subsequent Therapy
 - ◊ Cemiplimab move from Preferred to Other Recommended Regimens
 - ◊ Useful in Certain Circumstances: Repotrectinib added as an option for NTRK gene fusion-positive tumors



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

Updates in Version 3.2025 of the NCCN Guidelines for Vaginal Cancer from Version 2.2025 include:

[VAG-D 1A of 2](#)

- The following footnote modification were made:
 - ▶ Footnote a is new: An FDA-approved biosimilar is an appropriate substitute for any recommended systemic biologic therapy in the NCCN Guidelines.
 - ▶ Footnote g: Recommended in patients whose tumors express PD-L1 (combined positive score [CPS] ≥ 1) ~~as determined by an FDA-approved assay, or validated test performed in a CLIA-certified laboratory.~~
 - ▶ Footnote i: For the treatment of patients with unresectable or metastatic TMB-H [≥ 10 mutations/megabase (mut/Mb)] tumors, ~~as determined by FDA-approved assay, or validated test performed in a CLIA-certified laboratory,~~ that have progressed following prior treatment and who have no satisfactory alternative treatment options.
 - ▶ Footnote j is new: *NTRK*-positive tumors that are naïve to prior *NTRK* targeted therapy or have progressed on prior *NTRK* therapy.
- Footnotes removed:
 - ▶ These agents may be considered when cisplatin and carboplatin are unavailable.
 - ▶ An FDA-approved biosimilar is an appropriate substitute for trastuzumab.

[VAG-D 2 of 2](#)

- Reference 19 updated: ~~Meric-Bernstam F, Makker V, Oaknin A, et al. Efficacy and safety of trastuzumab deruxtecan in patients with HER2-expressing solid tumors: DESTINY-PanTumor02 interim results. Presented at the 2023 ASCO Annual Meeting; June 2–6, 2023; Chicago, Illinois. Meric-Bernstam F, Makker V, Oaknin A, et al. Efficacy and safety of trastuzumab deruxtecan in patients with HER2-expressing solid tumors: DESTINY-PanTumor02 Phase II trial. J Clin Oncol 2024;42:47-58.~~
- Reference 20 is new: Solomon B, Drilon A, Lin JJ, et al. Repotrectinib in patients with NTRK fusion-positive advanced solid tumors, including non-small cell lung cancer: update from the phase 1/2 TRIDENT-1 trial. Poster presented at the European Society for Medical Oncology Congress; October 20-24, 2023; Madrid, Spain.

Updates in Version 2.2025 of the NCCN Guidelines for Vaginal Cancer from Version 1.2025 include:

[MS-1](#)

- The Discussion, which reflects the recommendations in the algorithm, has been added.



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

WORKUP^a

- History and physical (H&P) (include sexual history, immunosuppression, prior hysterectomy, smoking history, gynecologic and anorectal symptoms)
- Pelvic exam (bimanual and rectovaginal), cervical evaluation and pap smear, colposcopy, vulvar evaluation
- Rule out synchronous anorectal, cervical, endometrial, or vulvar primary with vaginal metastasis or extension, or recurrent disease from prior malignancy^b
- Consider examination under anesthesia (EUA) with biopsies (consider cystoscopy/proctoscopy) as clinically indicated^c
- Imaging^d
- Complete blood count (CBC), comprehensive metabolic panel (CMP)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing in select patients

CLINICAL STAGE^e

Invasive
(Stage I–IVA)

Distant
metastatic
(Stage IVB)

PRIMARY TREATMENT

[VAG-2](#)

[VAG-6](#)

^a Multidisciplinary expertise is recommended. Consider referral to a center of expertise that specializes in the treatment of vaginal cancers.

^b Only a minority of vaginal cancers originate in the vagina. The remaining are generally metastatic from other sites. If vaginal lesion(s) involve the cervix or vulva, it is not considered vaginal cancer and the appropriate treatment algorithm should be consulted (see [NCCN Guidelines for Cervical Cancer](#) or [NCCN Guidelines for Vulvar Cancer](#)).

^c [Principles of Surgery \(VAG-E\)](#).

^d [Principles of Imaging \(VAG-B\)](#).

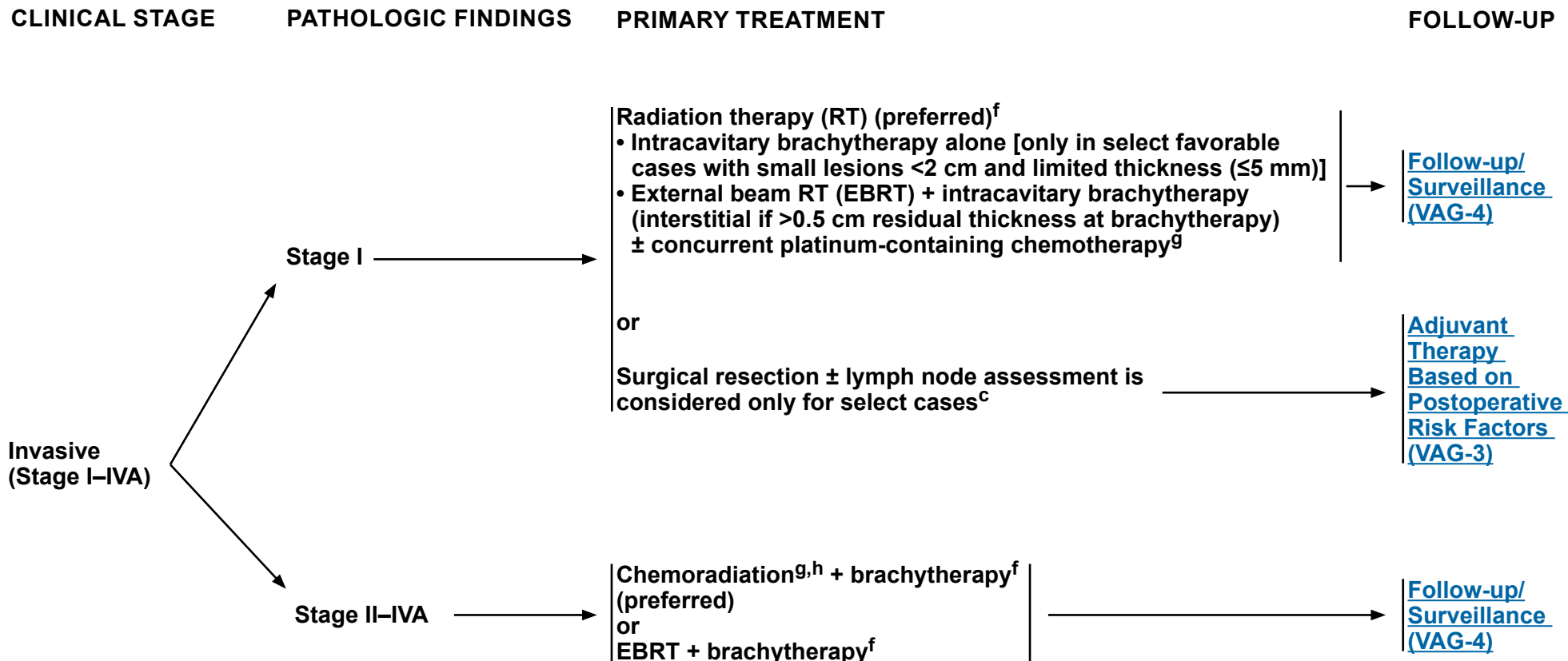
^e [Principles of Pathology \(VAG-A\)](#).

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer



^c [Principles of Surgery \(VAG-E\)](#).

^f [Principles of Radiation Therapy \(VAG-C\)](#).

^g Chemoradiation may not be suitable for all patients. It should be used with caution in patients who are older, frail, and/or have multiple comorbidities.

^h Concurrent chemotherapy has been shown in many series to improve outcomes and is often used in stage II–IV disease. Concurrent platinum-containing chemotherapy with EBRT utilizes cisplatin as a single agent (or carboplatin if cisplatin intolerant). See [Principles of Systemic Therapy \(VAG-D\)](#).

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

POSTOPERATIVE RISK FACTORS

ADJUVANT THERAPY TO THE PRIMARY SITE

Negative margins

Observe

Close or positive
margin(s) for invasive
disease or positive
lymph nodesⁱ

Adjuvant RT^f or chemoradiation^{g,j}
and/or
Brachytherapy^{f,k}

[Follow-up/
Surveillance
\(VAG-4\)](#)

^f [Principles of Radiation Therapy \(VAG-C\)](#).

^g Chemoradiation may not be suitable for all patients. It should be used with caution in patients who are older, frail, and/or have multiple comorbidities.

ⁱ The management of positive margins for high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (HSIL) should be individualized.

^j See [Principles of Systemic Therapy \(VAG-D\)](#).

^k In select patients, re-excision may be considered. See [Principles of Surgery \(VAG-E\)](#).

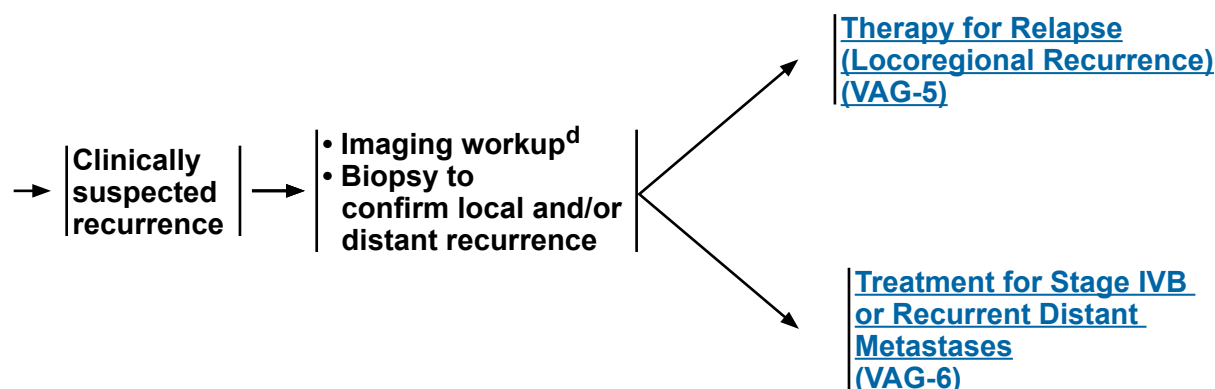
Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



FOLLOW-UP/ SURVEILLANCE

- Interval H&P
 - every 3–6 mo for 2 y,
 - every 6–12 mo for 3–5 y,
 - then annually based on patient's risk of disease recurrence
- Consider cervical/vaginal cytology screening^{l,m} as indicated for the detection of lower genital tract neoplasia (may include HPV testing)
- Post-treatment imaging 3–4 mo to assess response
- Further imaging as indicated based on symptoms or examination findings suspicious for recurrence^{d,n}
- Laboratory assessment (CBC, blood urea nitrogen [BUN], creatinine) as indicated based on symptoms or examination findings suspicious for recurrence
- Clinical evaluation and management of potential long-term and late effects of treatment and patient education^o (Also see [Principles of Gynecologic Survivorship \(VAG-F\)](#), [NCCN Guidelines for Survivorship](#), and [NCCN Guidelines for Smoking Cessation](#))

WORKUP



^d [Principles of Imaging \(VAG-B\)](#).

^l Regular cytology can be considered for detection of lower genital tract dysplasia, although its value in detection of recurrent genital tract cancer is limited.

^m The accuracy of cytology results may be affected in patients who have received pelvic radiation.

ⁿ Recurrences should be proven by biopsy before proceeding to treatment planning.

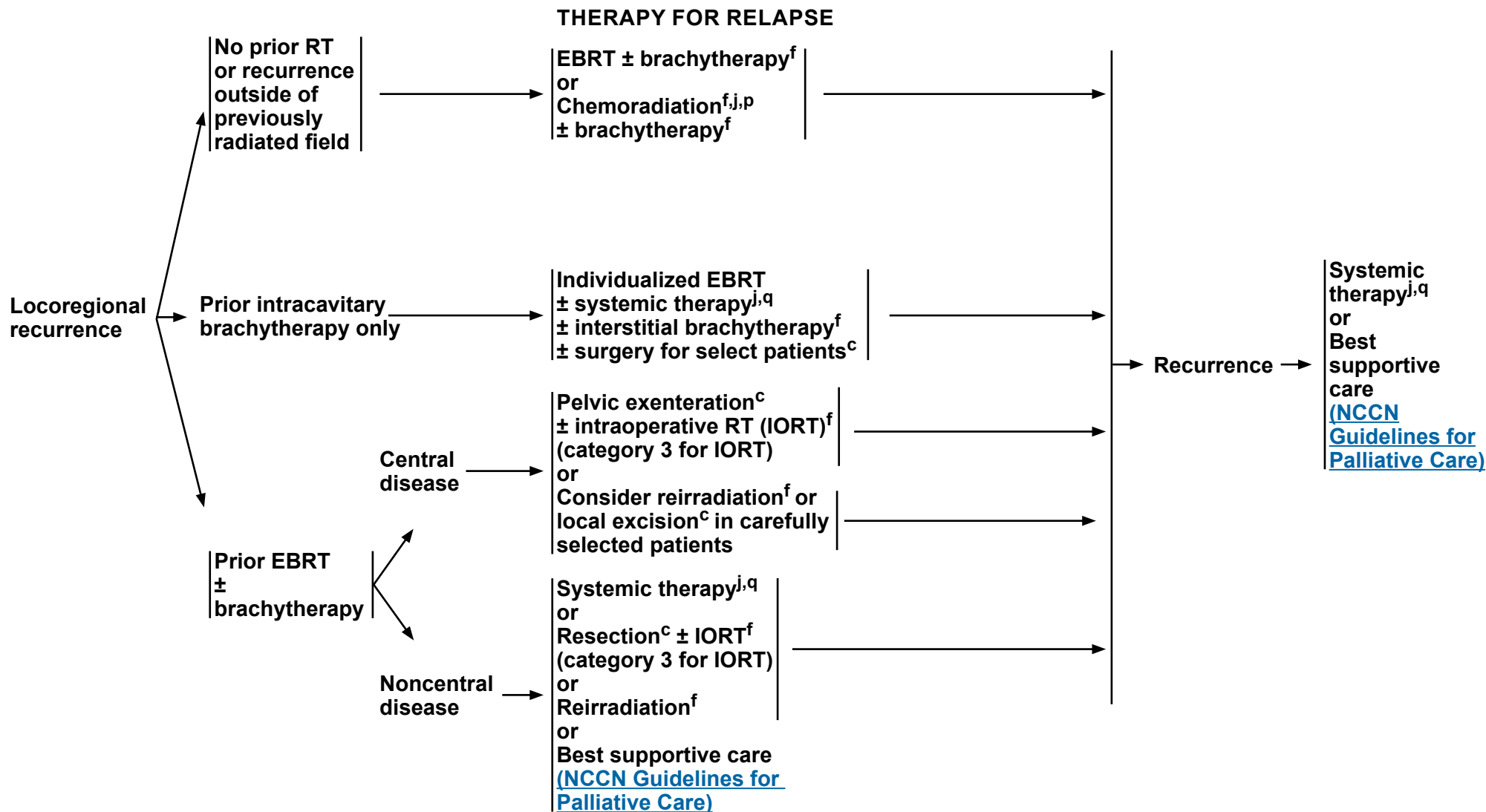
^o Patient education should include symptoms of potential recurrence, lifestyle, obesity, exercise, sexual health (including vaginal dilator use and lubricants/moisturizers, local estrogen and hormone therapy for menopause), smoking cessation, and nutrition counseling.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer



^c [Principles of Surgery \(VAG-E\)](#).

^f [Principles of Radiation Therapy \(VAG-C\)](#).

^j [Systemic Therapy for Vaginal Cancer \(VAG-D\)](#).

^p Concurrent platinum-containing chemotherapy with EBRT utilizes cisplatin as a single agent (or carboplatin if cisplatin intolerant).

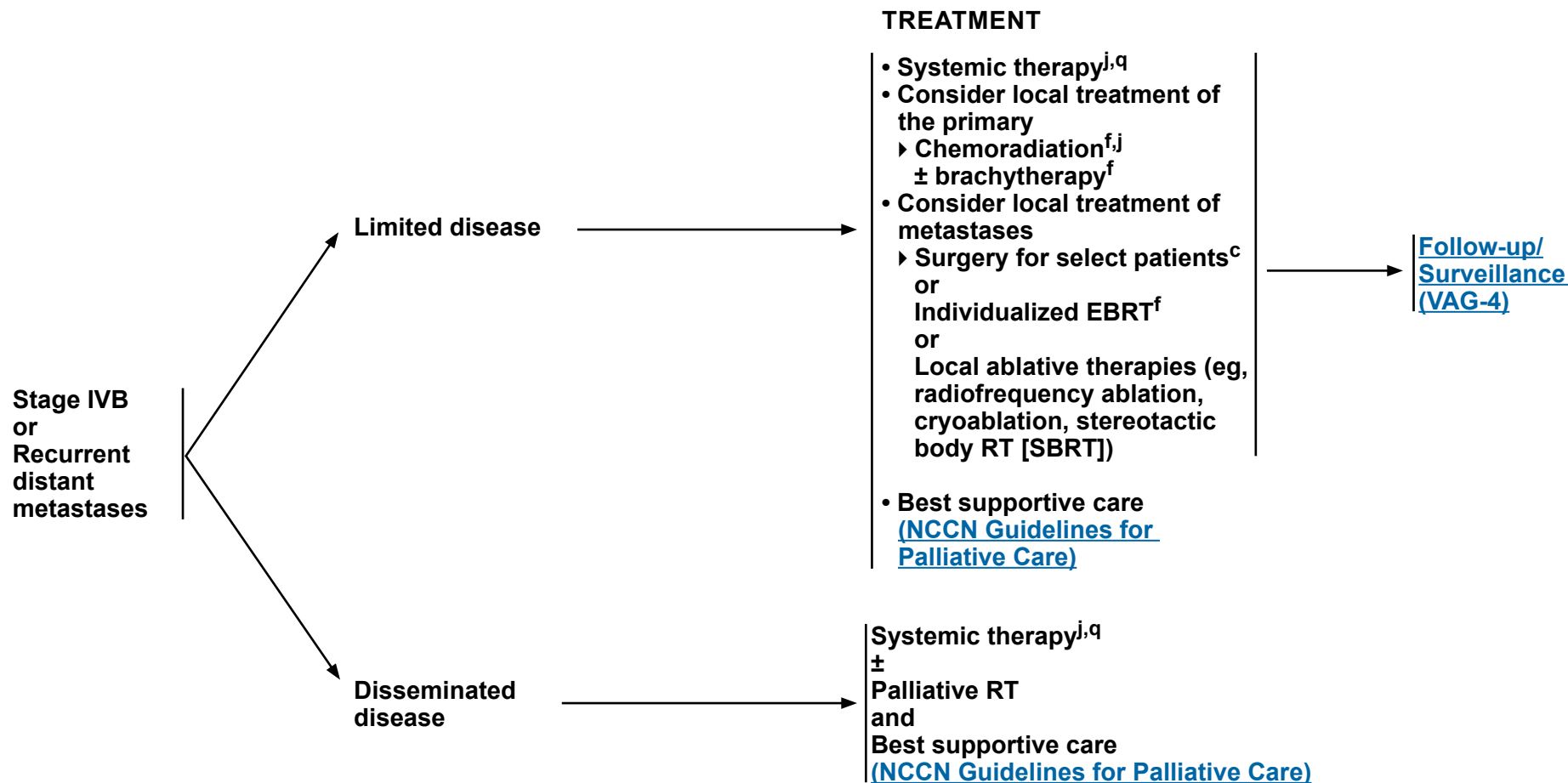
^q Consider additional testing. See [Principles of Pathology \(VAG-A 2 of 2\)](#).

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer



^c [Principles of Surgery \(VAG-E\)](#).

^f [Principles of Radiation Therapy \(VAG-C\)](#).

^j [Systemic Therapy for Vaginal Cancer \(VAG-D\)](#).

^q Consider additional testing. See [Principles of Pathology \(VAG-A 2 of 2\)](#).

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



PRINCIPLES OF PATHOLOGY

General Principles

- Vaginal carcinomas account for <1% of cancers affecting individuals assigned female at birth (AFAB) worldwide.
- The predominant pathway for vaginal squamous intraepithelial lesion (SIL) and vaginal squamous cell carcinoma is HPV infection, predominantly high-risk HPV types with the most common type being HPV16.
- For HPV-associated precursors, low-grade SIL (LSIL) or high-grade SIL (HSIL) is preferred; vaginal intraepithelial lesion (VAIN) may also be used and is graded 1, 2, or 3.
- The risk of progression from HSIL or VAIN to invasive squamous cell carcinoma approximates 5%. Categorization of vaginal squamous cell carcinoma has been simplified into HPV-associated and HPV-independent types based upon pathogenesis. If association is unknown, inclusion of “not otherwise specified (NOS)” is recommended. Previously used terms, “warty,” “basaloid,” “verrucous,” and “papillary,” are no longer necessary components of the histologic type.
- HPV-independent squamous cell carcinomas of the vagina are much less common and are often seen in postmenopausal AFAB individuals (median age 73 years). These tumors are predominantly of the keratinizing type histology and demonstrate negative p16 and positive p53 immunohistochemistry (IHC). As with HPV-associated vaginal carcinomas, prior history (<5 years) of cervical and vulvar carcinomas must be excluded.
- Other types of vaginal carcinomas are very rare and include: HPV-associated vaginal adenocarcinoma, endometrioid carcinoma, and clear cell carcinoma, mucinous carcinoma (gastric and intestinal types), mesonephric adenocarcinoma, carcinosarcoma, mixed tumor of the vagina, adenocarcinoma of skene gland origin, adenosquamous carcinoma, adenoid basal carcinoma, neuroendocrine carcinomas, adenosarcoma, and germ cell tumors.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

[Continued](#)

VAG-A
1 OF 2



PRINCIPLES OF PATHOLOGY

Pathologic Assessment for Vaginal Carcinoma

- Procedure type (ie, biopsy, local excision, partial vaginectomy, radical vaginectomy, trachelectomy)
- Tumor site (upper, middle, or lower third)
- Tumor size: include greatest dimension and additional two dimensions
- Histologic types: HPV-associated squamous cell carcinoma, HPV-independent squamous cell carcinoma, HPV-associated vaginal adenocarcinoma, endometrioid carcinoma, clear cell carcinoma, mucinous carcinoma (gastric and intestinal types), mesonephric adenocarcinoma, carcinosarcoma, mixed tumor of the vagina, adenocarcinoma of skene gland origin, adenosquamous carcinoma, adenoid basal carcinoma, adenosarcoma, neuroendocrine carcinomas, and germ cell tumors
- HPV-associated vaginal SILs are divided into the LSIL and HSIL categories; LSIL is associated with both low- and high-risk HPV types and HSIL is exclusively associated with high-risk HPV types
- Histologic grade: well, moderately, and poorly differentiated
- Lymphovascular space invasion (LVSI)
- Precursor lesion(s): VAIN/SIL
- Surgical resection margin status
- Determination of primary site: Prior (<5 year) history of cervical or vulvar carcinoma must be excluded.
- Ancillary testing
 - ▶ Recommend ancillary testing to determine HPV status either by p16 IHC or RNA in situ hybridization (ISH) or DNA sequencing^a
 - ▶ Recommend p53 IHC to determine p53 status in HPV-negative tumors (next-generation sequencing [NGS] is an acceptable alternative)
 - ▶ Consider programmed death ligand 1 (PD-L1) IHC for patients with recurrent, progressive, or metastatic disease
 - ▶ HER2 IHC (with or without reflex to HER2 fluorescence in situ hybridization [FISH] for equivocal IHC) is recommended for advanced or recurrent/metastatic disease
 - ▶ Consider comprehensive molecular profiling by an FDA-approved assay, or a validated test performed in a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified laboratory including at least microsatellite instability (MSI), tumor mutational burden (TMB) testing, *NTRK*, and *RET* for predicting rare pan-tumor targeted therapy opportunities
 - ▶ Mismatch repair (MMR) by IHC

^a p16 expression has been noted in a subset of HPV-independent vaginal squamous cell carcinomas.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



PRINCIPLES OF IMAGING^a

Workup

- Pelvis MRI and vaginal gel to assess local disease extent (preferred).
- Neck/chest/abdomen/pelvis/groin fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG)-PET/CT (preferred) or chest/abdomen/pelvis CT to evaluate for metastatic disease.
- Other initial imaging should be based on symptomatology and clinical concern for metastatic disease.

Follow-up

- FDG-PET/CT (preferred) at 3–4 months after RT.
- MRI if unable to obtain FDG-PET/CT or needed for clarification of FDG-PET/CT or exam findings.
- Repeat imaging if clinically indicated.

^a MRI is performed with and without IV contrast and CT is performed with contrast throughout the guidelines unless contraindicated. Contrast is not required for screening chest CT.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



PRINCIPLES OF RADIATION¹⁻⁸

General Principles

- For the majority of vaginal cancers, radiation is used rather than surgery as primary treatment due to improved organ preservation. Preferred modalities for definitive management include either concurrent pelvic chemoradiation (platinum-based) + brachytherapy or EBRT + brachytherapy. The addition of brachytherapy to EBRT is preferred as the combination has been shown to improve control.
- Overall treatment time should not extend beyond 8 weeks.
- Treatment delays/interruptions need to be minimized.

External Beam Radiation Therapy/Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (EBRT/IMRT)

• Simulation

▶ IMRT

- ◇ Simulate and treat supine, frog-legged with custom immobilization when including the groin, with full bladder. Consider bladder full and empty CT scans to generate vaginal internal organ motion (internal target volume [ITV]).
- ◇ Consider oral and IV contrast.
- ◇ Place markers at tumor for delineation and fuse with MRI/PET imaging (if available) to define tumor extent.
- ◇ Consider placement of vaginal gel during MRI for additional delineation of intraluminal disease.

• Dose Prescription

▶ IMRT

- ◇ 45–50 Gy in 1.8–2.0 Gy/fraction
- ◇ For gross nodes, consider simultaneous integrated or sequential boost to 55–70 Gy equivalent dose at 2 Gy (EQD2).
- ◇ If the primary lesion was resected surgically with close or positive margins and EBRT boost is planned, dose is 54–60 Gy to the postoperative bed. Alternatively a brachytherapy boost can be given.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

[Continued](#)
[References](#)

VAG-C
1 OF 7



PRINCIPLES OF RADIATION¹⁻⁸

External Beam Radiation Therapy/Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (EBRT/IMRT) continued

• Target Delineation^a

- ▶ Gross tumor volume (GTV) primary = Primary tumor delineated by exam (including EUA) and fusion with MRI and/or FDG-PET/CT.
- ▶ Clinical target volume (CTV) primary = Entire vagina, paravaginal tissues, cervix, parametria, and GTV with 1- to 2-cm margin. Account for possible ITV as vaginal apex can move up to 2 cm in anterior-posterior (AP) direction. To develop an ITV, patients should be simulated with full and empty bladder. CTVs from both scans should be combined to create an ITV. If there is involvement of adjacent organs (ie, urethra or rectum), consider their inclusion in CTV.
- ▶ CTV nodes = Pelvic nodal coverage of common iliac, internal and external iliac, presacral, and obturator nodes, and if lower third of vagina involved include inguinal nodes. Include para-aortic nodes if common iliac/para-aortic nodes involved. Include pelvic vessels with 7-mm expansion excluding bone/muscle/organs. Tumors involving the posterior vaginal wall and recto vaginal septum have an increased risk of spread to the presacral and mesorectal nodes; inclusion of the entire mesorectum should be considered in these cases.
- ▶ Inguinofemoral node borders for distal vaginal cases: superior = acetabular roof; lateral = inguinofemoral vessels to medial sartorius/rectus femoris; posterior = posterior border of vessels; medial = pectineus muscle or 2.5–3 cm from vessels; anterior = anterior border of sartorius; caudal = top of lesser trochanter of femur.
- ▶ Planning target volume (PTV) expansion 0.5–0.7 cm from CTV per institutional required margin to account for setup error based on image verification available.
- ▶ Inferior field border should extend approximately 3 cm below the inferior extent of vaginal disease.

• Planning/Treatment

▶ EBRT

- ◊ IMRT is used as a treatment technique to spare organs at risk (OAR). Attention should be given to internal target motion in planning.
- ◊ Consider treatment with full bladder to minimize bowel dose.
- ◊ A minimum of weekly portal images; daily image-guided RT (IGRT) is advised, especially if IMRT is utilized.
- ◊ Bolus may be necessary to adequately cover inguinal nodes.

^a For further details, refer to GEC-ESTRO recommendations.^{6,8}

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



PRINCIPLES OF RADIATION¹⁻⁸

Brachytherapy

• Simulation

- ▶ Intracavitary applicator (for ≤5-mm gross disease thickness)
 - ◊ May be done with single channel, multichannel (Miami applicator), or partially shielded vaginal cylinder applicators
- ▶ Interstitial needles (>5-mm gross disease thickness)—perineal template applicator (ie, Syed), hybrid, or freehand; consider referral to treatment center with specialist/expertise
- ▶ Real-time image guidance with CT, MRI, or transrectal ultrasound (US)

• Dose Prescription

- ▶ Brachytherapy to reach 70–80 Gy EQD2 total dose (alpha/beta [α/β] ratio = 10) to high-risk CTV (HR-CTV) is generally recommended, with lower dose ranges of 70–75 Gy considered in the lower vagina, and 75–80 Gy total dose in the upper vagina. For bulky or poorly responsive disease in the upper vagina, dose escalation up to 85 Gy may be considered. Some treat entire vaginal surface to 60 Gy cumulative, followed by tumor boost to 70–80 Gy, while others treat only the lesion plus a margin. Careful attention should be paid to dose tolerance of vaginal mucosa. The distal vagina has a lower tolerance than the proximal vagina.
- ▶ For invasive cancers, common high dose-rate (HDR) fractionation regimens after 45 Gy to pelvis include 4.5–5.5 Gy x 5 fractions to the HR-CTV. Either less fractionated or more fractionated regimens may be used, such as 7 Gy x 3 fractions or 3 Gy x 9–10 fractions. Modulation of dose takes into consideration tumor location, extent of disease, response to EBRT, brachytherapy technique (intracavitary or interstitial), relationship to surrounding OARs, as well as other factors.
- ▶ For very-early-stage vaginal cancers (<5 mm) not requiring EBRT, intracavitary brachytherapy alone may be used. Low dose-rate (LDR) data suggest improved outcomes with doses of approximately 60–70 Gy EQD2 to the vaginal surface. The HDR data are more varied, with total doses in the range of 50–60 Gy EQD2. The appropriate dose for each case needs to be individualized. Common regimens include 5 Gy x 8 fractions or 8 Gy x 5 fractions to the vaginal surface, with treatments delivered twice per week.

• Dose Constraints: See [\(VAG-C 5 of 7\)](#)

• Target Delineation^a

- ▶ Brachytherapy planning is highly individualized and should incorporate information from pre-EBRT and pre-brachytherapy imaging (preferably MRI), clinical drawings, fiducials, and exam findings. Careful understanding of vaginal anatomy and distribution of disease is required. Image-guided brachytherapy is strongly encouraged, with adaptation of volumes as tumor responds. Tumor extent, location, and response must all be considered when choosing the brachytherapy approach.
- ▶ GTV: macroscopic gross residual tumor at time of brachytherapy by imaging and clinical exam
- ▶ HR-CTV: GTV + any abnormal/irregular vaginal wall within initial tumor extension + paravaginal/parametrial gray zones (if applicable)

• Planning/Treatment

- ▶ IGRT adaptive planning encouraged
- ▶ Attention to vaginal surface dose and surrounding dose to OARs
- ▶ Use biologically effective dose (BED) dose conversions to track EQD2 dose to normal tissues (α/β ratio = 3) and to vaginal target/HR-CTV (α/β ratio = 10)

^a For further details, refer to GEC-ESTRO recommendations.^{6,8}

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



PRINCIPLES OF RADIATION¹⁻⁸

External Beam Boost

- Although brachytherapy is typically preferred, a carefully designed IMRT boost may be feasible in place of brachytherapy, if a similar EQD2 can be achieved without significant increased dose to the OARs. In such cases, total dose should aim for 65–70 Gy.
- This may be appropriate for patients who are poor candidates for brachytherapy or where concern for toxicity is high, such as tumors that are extremely close to the rectum or anus.

Reirradiation

- IORT (category 3): IORT is a specialized technique that delivers a single, highly focused dose of radiation to an at-risk tumor bed or isolated unresectable residual disease during an open surgical procedure.⁵ It is particularly useful in patients with recurrent disease within a previously radiated volume. During IORT, overlying normal tissue (such as bowel or other viscera) can be manually displaced from the region at risk. IORT is typically delivered with electrons, brachytherapy, or miniaturized x-ray sources using preformed applicators of variable sizes matched to the surgically defined region at risk, which further constrains the area and depth of radiation exposure to avoid surrounding normal structures.
- Other techniques for reirradiation may include intracavitary or interstitial brachytherapy, SBRT, IMRT, or proton therapy. Such cases are highly individualized and depend on the target, proximity to critical organs, previous RT dose, extent of overlap, and time intervals since prior RT. The appropriate dose for each case needs to be individualized.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

[Continued](#)
[References](#)

VAG-C
4 OF 7



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

PRINCIPLES OF RADIATION¹⁻⁸

NORMAL TISSUE DOSE CONSTRAINT GUIDELINES FOR VAGINAL CANCER⁹⁻¹¹

Organs at Risk	Dose Recommendation	
EBRT	Soft Constraint	Hard Constraint
Bowel	≤30% receives 40 Gy	≤70% receives 40 Gy
	V45 ≤200 cc	V45 <250 cc
	For nodal boost: V55 <5 cc	For nodal boost: V55 <15 cc
Bladder ^b	V45 <50%	Dmax <57.5 Gy
Anorectum ^b	V45 <50% V30 <60%	Dmax <57.5 Gy
Femoral Heads ^b	V30 <15%	Dmax <55 Gy
Bone Marrow (optional)	V10 <80% V20 <66%	V10 <90% V20 <75%
Spinal Cord	Dmax ≤45 Gy	—
External Genitalia ^c	V40 <5% V30 <35% V35 <50%	—

^b In cases where an EBRT boost is used, vulvar constraints may be appropriate: Bladder: Dmax <65 Gy; Anorectum: Dmax <65 Gy; and Femoral heads: Dmax <55 Gy.

^c Care should be taken to minimize dose to uninvolved and out-of-field external genitalia when possible but without compromising coverage of the PTV.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

[Continued](#)
[References](#)

VAG-C
5 OF 7



PRINCIPLES OF RADIATION¹⁻⁸

NORMAL TISSUE DOSE CONSTRAINT GUIDELINES FOR VAGINAL CANCER⁹⁻¹¹

Brachytherapy (including EBRT dose contribution)			
Organs at Risk	Ideal Dose Constraint (Gy) (EQD2 ₃)	Maximum Dose Constraint (Gy) (EQD2 ₃)	ICRU Point (Gy) (EQD2 ₃)
Rectum	<65 D2 cc	<75 D2 cc	<65 point dose
Bladder	75–80 D2 cc	<90 D2 cc	<75 point dose
Sigmoid	<70 D2 cc	<75 D2 cc	—
Bowel	<70 D2 cc	<75 D2 cc	—
Urethra	0.1 cc less than prescription dose (estimated EQD2 of 85 Gy)	—	—

Clinicians must balance the risks of normal tissue toxicity with tumor control, but suggested dose constraints are provided. Studies indicate that 20%–30% of cases may not meet every constraint.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



PRINCIPLES OF RADIATION REFERENCES

- ¹ Frank SJ, Jhingran A, Levenback C, Eifel PJ. Definitive radiation therapy for squamous cell carcinoma of the vagina. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2005;62:138-147.
- ² Creasman WT, Phillips JL, Menck HR. The National Cancer Data Base report on cancer of the vagina. *Cancer* 1998;83:1033-1040.
- ³ Rajagopalan MS, Xu KM, Lin JF, et al. Adoption and impact of concurrent chemoradiation therapy for vaginal cancer: a National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) study. *Gynecol Oncol* 2014;135:495-502.
- ⁴ Miyamoto DT, Viswanathan AN. Concurrent chemoradiation for vaginal cancer. *PLoS One* 2013;8:e65048.
- ⁵ Orton A, Boothe D, Williams N, et al. Brachytherapy improves survival in primary vaginal cancer. *Gynecol Oncol* 2016;141:501-506.
- ⁶ Kamrava M, Leung E, Bachand F, et al. GEC-ESTRO (ACROP)-ABS-CBG Consensus Brachytherapy Target Definition Guidelines for Recurrent Endometrial and Cervical Tumors in the Vagina. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2023;115:654-663.
- ⁷ Westerveld H, Schmid MP, Nout RA, et al. Image-guided adaptive brachytherapy (IGABT) for primary vaginal cancer: Results of the International Multicenter RetroEMBRACE cohort study. *Cancers (Basel)* 2021;13:1459.
- ⁸ Schmid MP, Fokdal L, Westerveld H, et al; GEC-ESTRO GYN Working Group. Recommendations from gynaecological (GYN) GEC-ESTRO working group - ACROP: Target concept for image guided adaptive brachytherapy in primary vaginal cancer. *Radiother Oncol* 2020;145:36-44.
- ⁹ Klopp AH, Yeung AR, Deshmukh S, et al. Patient-reported toxicity during pelvic intensity-modulated radiation therapy: NRG Oncology-RTOG 1203. *J Clin Oncol* 2018;36:2538-2544. Erratum in: *J Clin Oncol* 2019;37:761. Erratum in: *J Clin Oncol* 2020;38:1118.
- ¹⁰ Mell LK, Sirák I, Wei L, et al; INTERTECC Study Group. Bone marrow-sparing intensity modulated radiation therapy with concurrent cisplatin for stage IB-IVA cervical cancer: An international multicenter phase II clinical trial (INTERTECC-2). *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2017;97:536-545.
- ¹¹ Pötter R, Tanderup K, Kirisits C, et al; EMBRACE Collaborative Group. The EMBRACE II study: The outcome and prospect of two decades of evolution within the GEC-ESTRO GYN working group and the EMBRACE studies. *Clin Transl Radiat Oncol* 2018;9:48-60.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

SYSTEMIC THERAPY FOR PRIMARY VAGINAL CANCER (REGIMENS ARE EXTRAPOLATED FROM CERVICAL CANCER)^{a,b,c}

Squamous Cell Carcinoma, Adenocarcinoma		
Chemoradiation ^d	Recurrent or Metastatic Disease	
	First-Line Therapy ^{d,e}	Second-Line or Subsequent Therapy ^e
<u>Preferred Regimens</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cisplatin • Carboplatin if patient is cisplatin intolerant <u>Other Recommended Regimens (if cisplatin and carboplatin are unavailable)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capecitabine/mitomycin¹ • Gemcitabine² • Paclitaxel^{3,4} 	<u>Preferred Regimens</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PD-L1–positive tumors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Pembrolizumab + cisplatin/paclitaxel ± bevacizumab^{f,g,h,5} ▶ Pembrolizumab + carboplatin/paclitaxel ± bevacizumab^{f,g,h,5} • Cisplatin/paclitaxel/bevacizumab^{h,6} • Carboplatin/paclitaxel/bevacizumab^{h,6} <u>Other Recommended Regimens</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cisplatin/paclitaxel^{7,8} • Carboplatin/paclitaxel^{9,10} • Topotecan/paclitaxel/bevacizumab^{h,6,11} • Topotecan/paclitaxel¹¹ • Cisplatin/topotecan¹¹ • Cisplatin⁸ • Carboplatin^{12,13} 	<u>Preferred Regimens</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pembrolizumab^f for TMB-high (TMB-H) tumorsⁱ or PD-L1–positive^g or MSI-H/mismatch repair deficient (dMMR) tumors¹⁴ <u>Other Recommended Regimens</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bevacizumab • Paclitaxel^{13,15} • Albumin-bound paclitaxel • Docetaxel • Fluorouracil • Gemcitabine • Pemetrexed • Topotecan • Vinorelbine • Irinotecan • Tisotumab vedotin-tftv¹⁶ • Cemiplimab^{f,17} <u>Useful in Certain Circumstances</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PD-L1–positive tumors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Nivolumab^{f,g,j,18} • HER2-positive tumors (IHC 3+ or 2+) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan-nxki¹⁹ • <i>RET</i> gene fusion-positive tumors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Selpercatinib • <i>NTRK</i> gene fusion-positive tumors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Larotrectinib ▶ Entrectinib ▶ Repotrectinib^{k,20}

[Footnotes on VAG-D 1A of 2](#)

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

[References](#)

VAG-D
1 OF 2



FOOTNOTES FROM [VAG-D 1 OF 2](#)

- ^a An FDA-approved biosimilar is an appropriate substitute for any recommended systemic biologic therapy in the NCCN Guidelines.
- ^b The majority of cases in the vagina might be arising from another site. In these cases, one should refer to the corresponding NCCN Treatment Guidelines.
- ^c Cisplatin, carboplatin, docetaxel, and paclitaxel may cause drug reactions. See [NCCN Guidelines for Ovarian Cancer—Management of Drug Reactions \(OV-D\)](#).
- ^d Toxicity, especially when using extended-field RT, should be carefully considered when selecting an appropriate regimen for treatment.
- ^e If not used previously, these agents can be used as second-line or subsequent therapy as clinically appropriate.
- ^f [NCCN Guidelines for the Management of Immunotherapy-Related Toxicities](#).
- ^g Recommended in patients whose tumors express PD-L1 (combined positive score [CPS] ≥1).
- ^h Checkpoint inhibitors and/or monoclonal antibodies included in this regimen may be continued as maintenance therapy. Refer to the original study protocol for maintenance therapy dosing schedules.
- ⁱ For the treatment of patients with unresectable or metastatic TMB-H [≥10 mutations/megabase (mut/Mb)] tumors that have progressed following prior treatment and who have no satisfactory alternative treatment options.
- ^j Nivolumab and hyaluronidase-nvhy subcutaneous injection may be substituted for IV nivolumab. Nivolumab and hyaluronidase-nvhy has different dosing and administration instructions compared to IV nivolumab.
- ^k *NTRK*-positive tumors that are naïve to prior *NTRK* targeted therapy or have progressed on prior *NTRK* therapy.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



SYSTEMIC THERAPY FOR VAGINAL CANCER REFERENCES

- ¹ Lorvidhaya V, Chitapanarux I, Sangruchi S, et al. Concurrent mitomycin C, 5-fluorouracil, and radiotherapy in the treatment of locally advanced carcinoma of the cervix: a randomized trial. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2003;55:1226-1232.
- ² Pattaranutaporn P, Thirapakawong C, Chansilpa Y, et al. Phase II study of concurrent gemcitabine and radiotherapy in locally advanced stage IIIB cervical carcinoma. *Gynecol Oncol* 2001;81:404-407.
- ³ Candelaria M, Garcia-Arias A, Cetina L, et al. Radiosensitizers in cervical cancer. Cisplatin and beyond. *Radiat Oncol* 2006;1:15.
- ⁴ Cerrotta A, Gardan G, Raspagliesi F, et al. Concurrent radiotherapy and weekly paclitaxel for locally advanced or recurrent squamous cell carcinoma of the uterine cervix. A pilot study with intensification of dose. *Eur J Gynaecol Oncol* 2002;23:115-119.
- ⁵ Colombo N, Dubot C, Lorusso D, et al. Pembrolizumab for persistent, recurrent, or metastatic cervical cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2021;385:1856-1867.
- ⁶ Tewari KS, Sill MW, Long HJ III, et al. Improved survival with bevacizumab in advanced cervical cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2014;370:734-743.
- ⁷ Monk BJ, Sill MW, McMeekin DS, et al. Phase III trial of four cisplatin-containing doublet combinations in stage IVB, recurrent, or persistent cervical carcinoma: a Gynecologic Oncology Group study. *J Clin Oncol* 2009;27:4649-4655.
- ⁸ Moore DH, Blessing JA, McQuellon RP, et al. Phase III study of cisplatin with or without paclitaxel in stage IVB, recurrent, or persistent squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix: a gynecologic oncology group study. *J Clin Oncol* 2004;22:3113-3119.
- ⁹ Moore KN, Herzog TJ, Lewin S, et al. A comparison of cisplatin/paclitaxel and carboplatin/paclitaxel in stage IVB, recurrent or persistent cervical cancer. *Gynecol Oncol* 2007;105:299-303.
- ¹⁰ Kitagawa R, Katsumata N, Shibata T, et al. Paclitaxel plus carboplatin versus paclitaxel plus cisplatin in metastatic or recurrent cervical cancer: the open-label randomized phase III trial JCOG0505. *J Clin Oncol* 2015;33:2129-2135.
- ¹¹ Long HJ III, Bundy BN, Grendys EC Jr, et al. Randomized phase III trial of cisplatin with or without topotecan in carcinoma of the uterine cervix: a Gynecologic Oncology Group Study. *J Clin Oncol* 2005;23:4626-4633.
- ¹² Weiss GR, Green S, Hannigan EV, et al. A phase II trial of carboplatin for recurrent or metastatic squamous carcinoma of the uterine cervix: a Southwest Oncology Group study. *Gynecol Oncol* 1990;39:332-336.
- ¹³ Tinker AV, Bhagat K, Swenerton KD, Hoskins PJ. Carboplatin and paclitaxel for advanced and recurrent cervical carcinoma: the British Columbia Cancer Agency experience. *Gynecol Oncol* 2005;98:54-58.
- ¹⁴ Marabelle A, Le DT, Ascierto PA, et al. Efficacy of pembrolizumab in patients with noncolorectal high microsatellite instability/mismatch repair-deficient cancer: results from the phase 2 KEYNOTE-158 study. *J Clin Oncol* 2020;38:1-10.
- ¹⁵ McGuire WP, Blessing JA, Moore D, et al. Paclitaxel has moderate activity in squamous cervix cancer. A Gynecologic Oncology Group study. *J Clin Oncol* 1996;14:792-795.
- ¹⁶ Coleman RL, Lorusso D, Gennigens C, et al. Efficacy and safety of tisotumab vedotin in previously treated recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer (innovaTV 204/ GOG-3023/ENGOT-cx6): a multicentre, open-label, single-arm, phase 2 study. *Lancet Oncol* 2021;22:609-619.
- ¹⁷ Tewari KS, Monk BJ, Vergote I et al. Survival with cemiplimab in recurrent cervical cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2022;386:544-555.
- ¹⁸ Naumann RW, Hollebecque A, Meyer T, et al. Safety and efficacy of nivolumab monotherapy in recurrent or metastatic cervical, vaginal, or vulvar carcinoma: Results from the phase I/II CheckMate 358 trial. *J Clin Oncol* 2019;37:2825-2834.
- ¹⁹ Meric-Bernstam F, Makker V, Oaknin A, et al. Efficacy and safety of trastuzumab deruxtecan in patients with HER2-expressing solid tumors: DESTINYPanTumor02 Phase II trial. *J Clin Oncol* 2024;42:47-58.
- ²⁰ Solomon B, Drilon A, Lin JJ, et al. Repotrectinib in patients with NTRK fusion-positive advanced solid tumors, including non-small cell lung cancer: update from the phase 1/2 TRIDENT-1 trial. Poster presented at the European Society for Medical Oncology Congress; October 20-24, 2023; Madrid, Spain.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



PRINCIPLES OF SURGERY

Initial Diagnosis:

- Patients should be evaluated by a gynecologic oncologist prior to any surgical treatment for vaginal cancer.
- Surgery is only recommended if a complete resection with clear margins is feasible without excessive morbidity and with likelihood that no adjuvant RT would be required.
- EUA may be helpful to confirm diagnosis, obtain adequate tissue sampling for histologic evaluation and comprehensive molecular profiling such as PD-L1, and assess the extent of disease. Consider cystoscopy and proctoscopy concurrently to exclude bladder/rectal invasion. Perform evaluation of cervix and vulva to exclude other gynecologic primary sites.
- In patients who are premenopausal, ovarian preservation or transposition should be considered when feasible.
- Fiducial markers may be placed to define the extent of the vaginal lesion.
- Definitive surgical management for vaginal cancer is not often utilized, and the alternative of radiation should be considered.
- For microscopic lesions at the top of the vagina, upper vaginectomy ± hysterectomy may be reasonable. A radical hysterectomy may be appropriate for macroscopic lesions (<2 cm).
- For proximal lesions involving the upper two thirds of the vagina, the pelvic lymph nodes should be assessed.
- For distal lesions involving the lower 1/3 of the vagina, the inguinal lymph nodes should be assessed.
- Vaginal reconstruction should be considered for appropriate candidates desiring such procedures.
- For primary, untreated lesions in which resection would require excision of the urethra, bladder, or rectum, radiation is often preferred.
- Vaginectomy may be considered for small lesions for which margins are likely to be negative. Every effort should be made to obtain negative margins.
- Pelvic exenteration may be considered for recurrent or persistent disease localized to the pelvis or when primary RT is not feasible.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



PRINCIPLES OF GYNECOLOGIC SURVIVORSHIP

Physical Effects

- Gynecologic cancer treatment typically involves surgery, chemotherapy, hormone therapy, RT, and/or immunotherapy. These treatments cause acute, short-term, and long-term toxicities.
- Surgical approaches may be extensive and pose risks such as adhesion formation, which may cause pain and may contribute to small bowel obstruction, urinary or gastrointestinal complications (eg, incontinence, diarrhea), pelvic floor dysfunction (manifested by a variety of urinary, bowel, and/or sexual effects), and lymphedema.
- Chemotherapy agents vary, though commonly used regimens may pose a significant risk of neurotoxicity, cardiac toxicity, development of hematologic cancers, and cognitive dysfunction.
- Long-term estrogen deprivation may cause symptoms such as hot flashes, vaginal dryness, and bone loss.
- RT may cause long-term complications (eg, fibrosis, vulvovaginal atrophy) and may predispose patients to secondary cancers of the subcutaneous tissue, and/or underlying organs that are proximal to the radiation field.
- Prior pelvic RT may contribute to bone loss and increase the risk of pelvic fractures. Consider bone density testing and prophylactic use of bisphosphonates, particularly in patients with osteoporosis.
- Immunotherapy use is emerging, and to date, long-term effects of these treatments are unknown.

Psychosocial Effects

- Psychosocial effects after cancer may be psychological (eg, depression, anxiety, fear of recurrence, altered body image), financial (eg, return to work, insurance concerns), and/or interpersonal (eg, relationships, sexuality, intimacy) in nature.

Clinical Approach

- All gynecologic cancer survivors should receive regular general medical care that focuses on managing chronic disease, monitoring cardiovascular risk factors, providing recommended vaccinations, and encouraging adoption of a healthy lifestyle.
- In order to assess the late and long-term effects of gynecologic cancers, clinicians should comprehensively document the patient's history, conduct a thorough physical examination, and provide any necessary imaging and/or laboratory testing. All patients, whether sexually active or not, should be asked about genitourinary symptoms, including vulvovaginal dryness. Referral to appropriate specialty providers (eg, physical therapy, pelvic floor therapy, sexual therapy, psychotherapy) is recommended. As most treatments for gynecologic cancers will cause sexual dysfunction, early menopause, and infertility, special attention to the resultant medical and psychosocial implications is needed.
- Post-radiation use of vaginal dilators and moisturizers is recommended. Local vaginal estrogen may be considered if symptomatic.
- For treatment-related menopause, hormone therapy should be considered.
- Communication and coordination with all clinicians involved in the care of survivors, including primary care clinicians, is critical. Providing cancer survivors with a summary of their treatment and recommendations for follow-up is recommended.

Additional Guidance

- [NCCN Guidelines for Distress Management](#)
- [NCCN Guidelines for Smoking Cessation](#)
- [NCCN Guidelines for Survivorship](#)

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

Table 1. AJCC Tumor, Node, Metastasis (TNM) and International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) Surgical Staging Systems for Carcinoma of the Vagina

T	FIGO Stage	Primary Tumor	N	FIGO Stage	Regional Lymph Nodes
TX		Primary tumor cannot be assessed	NX		Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
T0		No evidence of primary tumor	N0		No regional lymph node metastasis
T1	I	Tumor confined to the vagina	N0(i+)		Isolated tumor cells in regional lymph node(s) no greater than 0.2 mm
T1a	I	Tumor confined to the vagina, measuring ≤2.0 cm	N1	III	Pelvic or inguinal lymph node metastasis
T1b	I	Tumor confined to the vagina, measuring >2.0 cm			
T2	II	Tumor invading paravaginal tissues but not to pelvic sidewall	M	FIGO Stage	Distant Metastasis
T2a	II	Tumor invading paravaginal tissues but not to pelvic wall, measuring ≤2.0 cm	M0		No distant metastasis
T2b	II	Tumor invading paravaginal tissues but not to pelvic wall, measuring >2.0 cm	M1	IVB	Distant metastasis
T3	III	Tumor extending to the pelvic sidewall* and/or causing hydronephrosis or nonfunctioning kidney	G	Histologic Grade	
T4	IVA	Tumor invading the mucosa of the bladder or rectum and/or extending beyond the true pelvis (bullous edema is not sufficient evidence to classify a tumor as T4)	GX		Grade cannot be assessed
			G1		Well differentiated
			G2		Moderately differentiated
			G3		Poorly differentiated

*Pelvic sidewall is defined as the muscle, fascia, neurovascular structures, or skeletal portions of the bony pelvis. On rectal examination, there is no cancer-free space between the tumor and pelvic sidewall.

Used with permission of the American College of Surgeons, Chicago, Illinois. The original source for this information is the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, Eighth Edition (2017) published by Springer International Publishing.
 and from: FIGO Committee on Gynecologic Oncology. Current FIGO staging for cancer of the vagina, fallopian tube, ovary, and gestational trophoblastic neoplasia. Int J Gynaecol Obstet 2009;105:3-4. Copyright 2009, with permission from International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics.



ABBREVIATIONS

AFAB	assigned female at birth	GTV	gross tumor volume	MMR	mismatch repair
AP	anteroposterior			MSI	microsatellite instability
		H&P	history and physical	MSI-H	microsatellite instability-high
BED	biologically effective dose	HDR	high dose rate		
BUN	blood urea nitrogen	HPV	human papillomavirus	NGS	next-generation sequencing
		HR-CTV	high-risk clinical target volume	NOS	not otherwise specified
CBC	complete blood count	HSIL	high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion		
CLIA	Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments			OAR	organ at risk
CMP	comprehensive metabolic panel	IGRT	image-guided radiation therapy	PD-L1	programmed death ligand 1
CPS	combined positive score	IHC	immunohistochemistry	PTV	planning target volume
CTV	clinical target volume	IMRT	intensity-modulated radiation therapy		
		IORT	intraoperative radiation therapy	SBRT	stereotactic body radiation therapy
dMMR	mismatch repair deficient	ISH	in situ hybridization	SIL	squamous intraepithelial lesion
EBRT	external beam radiation therapy	ITV	internal target volume		
EQD2	equivalent dose at 2 Gy			TMB	tumor mutational burden
EUA	examination under anesthesia	LDR	low dose rate	TMB-H	tumor mutational burden-high
		LSIL	low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion		
FDG	fluorodeoxyglucose	LVSI	lymphovascular space invasion	VAIN	vaginal intraepithelial lesion
FISH	fluorescence in situ hybridization				



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus	
Category 1	Based upon high-level evidence (≥1 randomized phase 3 trials or high-quality, robust meta-analyses), there is uniform NCCN consensus (≥85% support of the Panel) that the intervention is appropriate.
Category 2A	Based upon lower-level evidence, there is uniform NCCN consensus (≥85% support of the Panel) that the intervention is appropriate.
Category 2B	Based upon lower-level evidence, there is NCCN consensus (≥50%, but <85% support of the Panel) that the intervention is appropriate.
Category 3	Based upon any level of evidence, there is major NCCN disagreement that the intervention is appropriate.

All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

NCCN Categories of Preference	
Preferred intervention	Interventions that are based on superior efficacy, safety, and evidence; and, when appropriate, affordability.
Other recommended intervention	Other interventions that may be somewhat less efficacious, more toxic, or based on less mature data; or significantly less affordable for similar outcomes.
Useful in certain circumstances	Other interventions that may be used for selected patient populations (defined with recommendation).

All recommendations are considered appropriate.



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

Discussion

This discussion corresponds to the NCCN Guidelines for Vaginal Cancer (V.5.2025). Last updated on February 28, 2025.

Table of Contents

Overview	2	Systemic Therapy for Recurrent or Metastatic Vaginal Cancer	14
Guidelines Update Methodology	3	First-Line Systemic Therapy Options	14
Literature Search Criteria.....	3	Second-Line/Subsequent Systemic Therapy Options	16
Sensitive/Inclusive Language Usage	3	Principles of Radiation Therapy.....	18
Diagnosis and Workup.....	3	Radiation Treatment Planning.....	18
Principles of Staging and Surgery.....	4	Brachytherapy	19
Clinical Staging	4	External Beam Radiation Therapy/Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy.....	20
Principles of Pathology	4	External Beam Boost	21
Pathologic Assessment	4	Reirradiation	22
General Principles	5	Concurrent Chemoradiation	22
Prognostic and Predictive Biomarkers	5	Normal Tissue Considerations	23
Primary Treatment.....	10	Drug Reactions	24
Invasive (Stage I–IVA) Disease	10	Gynecologic Survivorship.....	24
Surveillance.....	10	Best Supportive Care	25
Therapy for Relapse	11	Summary	25
Locoregional Recurrence	11	References	26
Stage IVB or Recurrent Distant Metastatic Disease	12		
Systemic Therapy Recommendations.....	13		
Chemoradiation for Locally Advanced Vaginal Cancer.....	13		



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

Overview

Vaginal cancer is a rare gynecologic malignancy representing 1% to 2% of all gynecologic neoplasms.¹ An estimated 8070 new cases of vaginal and other genital cancers will be diagnosed in the United States in 2025, and 1950 people are estimated to die of the disease.² Because of the rarity of vaginal cancer, phase 3 trials have not been carried out and current guidelines have been drawn up on retrospective or comparative studies. Vaginal cancer is also the most common type of metachronous malignancy after cervical cancer diagnosis, followed by vulvar cancer and anal cancer.³ In individuals with cervical intraepithelial neoplasia at the time of hysterectomy, the risk of contracting vaginal cancer is more than double compared to non-hysterectomized individuals⁴. The risk for vaginal cancers is most common in individuals AFAB >70 years. Age-standardized incidence rate of vaginal preinvasive neoplasia ranges between 0.5 to 1.3 per 100,000 individuals AFAB (before human papillomavirus [HPV] vaccination) and those aged 60 to 69 years are at greater risk.⁵ The majority of invasive vaginal carcinomas are squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), and the second most common type is melanoma.⁶ SCC accounts for 80% to 90% of cases and most commonly arises in the upper portion of the posterior wall of the vagina.⁶ Some of the risk factors based on etiologic insights from case studies include vaginal damage from ring pessaries, chronic vaginitis, sexual behavior, birthing trauma, obesity, exposure to chemicals in the vagina, and HPV.⁷

Persistent infection with high-risk HPV types has been detected in 40% to 70% of all vulvar and vaginal cancers, and in about 85% to 90% of vaginal intraepithelial neoplasia grades 2 and 3 (VaIN 2/3).⁵ The specific HPV types detected in cervical, vulvar, and vaginal cancer vary widely due to differences in the sensitivity of the HPV detection methods used, HPV distribution, and different HPV positivity age groups reported. HPV16, the most common type, is detected in 48% to 72% of cervical, 27% to 58% of

vulvar, and 46% to 77% of vaginal cancers. HPV18 has been detected in 11% to 22% of cervical, 2% to 10% of vulvar, and 3% to 27% of vaginal cancers. HPV16 has been reported to be present in 49% to 81% of VaIN 2/3, whereas only 2% to 14% of these lesions test positive for HPV18.⁵

Since patients with previous cervical carcinoma have a substantial risk of developing vaginal carcinoma, presumably because these sites share exposure and/or susceptibility to endogenous or exogenous carcinogenic stimuli, epidemiologic risk factors associated with cervical cancer are also shared risk factors for vaginal cancer including history of smoking, parity, oral contraceptive use, early age of onset of coitus, larger number of sexual partners, history of sexually transmitted disease, certain autoimmune diseases, and chronic immunosuppression.⁸⁻¹⁰ Smoking cessation should be advised in patients who currently smoke, and patients who formerly smoked should continue to avoid smoking (see the [NCCN Guidelines for Smoking Cessation](#) and <http://smokefree.gov>).

In 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) updated the Female Genital Tumors classification and recommends distinguishing between HPV-associated and HPV-independent SCC of the vagina.¹¹ The majority of vaginal SCCs are HPV-associated with a non-keratinizing morphology and are in the proximal or intermediate third (Müllerian) portion of the vagina. Distal SCCs, also known as introitus carcinoma and that stem from the urogenital sinus, generally lack HPV association and are often keratinizing SCCs.¹¹ WHO recommends that for vaginal carcinomas, molecular analyses (ie, HPV detection in situ) are not indicated for the diagnostic evaluation.

The NCCN Vaginal Cancer Guidelines subcommittee acknowledges that the 2020 version of the WHO classification discussed the integration of the immunohistochemical (IHC) and molecular profiles that has led to a better classification system that is now adapted in the 2020 WHO Classification of Female Genital Tumors.¹¹



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

Regardless of cancer subtype and HPV infection status, primary treatment with curative intent for patients with vaginal cancer typically consists of radiation, surgery, chemoradiation, or a combination of these treatments; options vary by cancer stage. By definition, the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®) cannot incorporate all possible clinical variations and are not intended to replace good clinical judgment or individualization of treatments. “Many exceptions to the rule” were discussed among the members of the Vaginal Cancer Panel during the process of developing these Guidelines.

Guidelines Update Methodology

The complete details of the Development and Update of the NCCN Guidelines are available at www.NCCN.org.

Literature Search Criteria

Prior to the development of this version of the NCCN Guidelines® for Vaginal Cancer, an electronic search of the PubMed database was performed to obtain key literature in cervical cancer published since the previous Guidelines update, using the following search terms: vaginal cancer or vaginal carcinoma. The PubMed database was chosen as it remains the most widely used resource for medical literature and indexes peer-reviewed biomedical literature.

The search results were narrowed by selecting studies in humans published in English. Results were confined to the following article types: Clinical Trial, Phase 2; Clinical Trial, Phase 3; Clinical Trial, Phase 4; Guideline; Randomized Controlled Trial; Meta-Analysis; Multi-center studies; Systematic Reviews; and Validation Studies.

The data from key PubMed articles as well as articles from additional sources deemed as relevant to these Guidelines as discussed by the Panel during the Guidelines development have been included in this

version of the Discussion section. Recommendations for which high-level evidence is lacking are based on the Panel’s review of lower-level evidence and expert opinion.

Sensitive/Inclusive Language Usage

NCCN Guidelines strive to use language that advances the goals of equity, inclusion, and representation. NCCN Guidelines endeavor to use language that is person-first; not stigmatizing; anti-racist, anti-classist, anti-misogynist, anti-ageist, anti-ableist, and anti-weight-biased; and inclusive of individuals of all sexual orientations and gender identities. NCCN Guidelines incorporate non-gendered language, instead focusing on organ-specific recommendations. This language is both more accurate and more inclusive and can help fully address the needs of individuals of all sexual orientations and gender identities. NCCN Guidelines will continue to use the terms men, women, female, and male when citing statistics, recommendations, or data from organizations or sources that do not use inclusive terms. Most studies do not report how sex and gender data are collected and use these terms interchangeably or inconsistently. If sources do not differentiate gender from sex assigned at birth or organs present, the information is presumed to predominantly represent cisgender individuals. NCCN encourages researchers to collect more specific data in future studies and organizations to use more inclusive and accurate language in their future analyses.

Diagnosis and Workup

The most significant signs of vaginal cancer are bleeding, discharge, urine retention and rectal symptoms such as constipation or blood in the stool. However, up to 20% of individuals AFAB may be asymptomatic and have the disease discovered on pelvic (bimanual and rectovaginal) or cervical examination and pap cytology, colposcopy, or vulvar screening. Cofactors for vaginal cancer include immunosuppression, prior hysterectomy, and cigarette smoking. As a synchronous or metachronous tumor, vaginal



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

cancer is frequently found in combination with cervical cancer. With a rare cancer like vaginal cancer, it is important to consider synchronous anorectal, cervical, endometrial, or vulvar primary with vaginal metastasis or extension, or recurrent disease from prior malignancy. Only a minority of vaginal cancers originate in the vagina. The remaining are generally metastatic from other sites. If vaginal lesion(s) involve the cervix or vulva, they are not considered vaginal cancer, and the appropriate treatment algorithm should be consulted. Biopsy remains the gold standard for diagnosing vaginal cancer. This can be best accomplished by an examination under anesthesia (EUA) and should include inspection of the vaginal fornices and biopsies of the cervix.

Workup for these patients with suspicious symptoms includes history and physical, pelvic exam (bimanual and rectovaginal), cervical evaluation and pap cytology, colposcopy, vulvar evaluation, imaging, complete blood count (CBC), comprehensive metabolic panel (CMP), and testing for HPV and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in select patients. Due to diverse diagnosis of vaginal cancer, multidisciplinary expertise is recommended.

For detailed surgical staging and imaging recommendations by stage and planned treatment approach, see *Principles of Surgery*, *Principles of Imaging*, and *Staging* in the algorithm. Smoking cessation and counseling, as well as HIV testing (especially in younger patients), are recommended.

Principles of Staging and Surgery

Clinical Staging

Vaginal cancer is primarily staged clinically like cervical cancer. The staging is based on the results of a physical exam, biopsy, and imaging tests performed before treatment selection using 2009 International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) staging. The FIGO Gynecologic Oncology Committee also recommends that imaging should

be used to better define tumor volume and extension of disease wherever available.

The staging definition according to FIGO 2009 staging is as follows: stage IA, the cancer is only in the vagina and is ≤ 2.0 cm; stage IB, the tumor is confined to the vagina, measuring >2.0 cm; stage IIA, the cancer has grown through the vaginal wall, but not as far as the pelvic wall and is ≤ 2.0 cm (4/5 inch); stage IIB, the cancer has grown through the vaginal wall, but not as far as the pelvic wall and is >2.0 cm (4/5 inch); stage III, the tumor extends to the pelvic sidewall (defined as the muscle, fascia, neurovascular structures, or skeletal portions of the bony pelvis) and/or is causing hydronephrosis or nonfunctioning kidney; stage IVA, the tumor is invading the mucosa of the bladder or rectum and/or is extending beyond the true pelvis (bullous edema is not sufficient evidence to classify a tumor as T4); and stage IVB, distant metastasis.

Principles of Pathology

Pathologic Assessment

The College of American Pathologists (CAP) protocol for primary carcinoma of the vagina is a useful guide for the examination of resection specimens: <https://documents.cap.org/protocols/cp-female-reproductive-vagina-resection-20-4201.pdf>.

This CAP protocol was revised in February 2020 and reflects recent updates to AJCC staging (ie, AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 8th edition) and FIGO Cancer Report 2018.¹² All staging guidelines in the algorithm are based on 2009 FIGO staging and AJCC staging, unless otherwise noted. Surgico-pathologic factors may be used to guide the extent of surgical staging and treatment decisions. Findings from pathologic assessment of the surgical specimen should be carefully documented according to CAP protocol for vaginal carcinoma. Important elements of primary tumor evaluation include the procedure type (ie, biopsy, local



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

excision, partial vaginectomy, radical vaginectomy, trachelectomy); tumor site (upper, middle, or lower third); tumor size to include greatest dimension and additional two dimensions; histologic types that include HPV-associated SCC, HPV-independent SCC, HPV-associated vaginal adenocarcinoma, endometrioid carcinoma, and clear cell carcinoma; histologic grade (well, moderately, and poorly differentiated); lymphovascular space invasion (LVSI); precursor lesions (VaIN/squamous intraepithelial lesion [SIL]); determination of primary site; and surgical resection margin status.

General Principles

Vaginal carcinomas account for <1% of cancers affecting individuals AFAB worldwide. The predominant pathway for vaginal SIL and vaginal SCC is HPV infection-predominant high-risk HPV types with the most common type being HPV16. In 2012, based on the recommendation of the Lower Anogenital Squamous Terminology (LAST) Project, a uniform two-tiered terminology for HPV-associated SIL across all anogenital tract organs that distinguishes between low-grade SIL (LSIL) and high-grade SIL (HSIL) was introduced.¹³ SIL is now the preferred terminology, which can be synonymously used with the three-tiered system of intraepithelial neoplasia. LSIL encompasses both low- and high-risk HPV infection and VaIN 1, while HSIL includes VaIN 2 and VaIN 3 and is exclusively associated with high-risk HPV types.¹⁴ The risk of progression from HSIL or VaIN to invasive SCC is approximately 5%. Categorization of vaginal SCC has been simplified into HPV-associated and HPV-independent types based upon pathogenesis. If association is unknown, inclusion of “not otherwise specified (NOS)” is recommended. Previously used terms, “warty,” “basaloid,” “verrucous,” and “papillary,” are no longer necessary components of the histologic type. HPV-independent SCCs of the vagina are much less common and are often seen in postmenopausal individuals AFAB (median age 73 years). These tumors are predominantly of the keratinizing type of histology and demonstrate

negative p16 and positive p53 IHC. As with HPV-associated vaginal carcinomas, prior history (<5 years) of cervical and vulvar carcinomas must be excluded.

Other types of vaginal carcinomas are very rare and include HPV-associated vaginal adenocarcinoma, endometrioid carcinoma, clear cell carcinoma, mucinous carcinoma (gastric and intestinal types), mesonephric adenocarcinoma, carcinosarcoma, mixed tumor of the vagina, adenocarcinoma of skene gland origin, adenosquamous carcinoma, adenoid basal carcinoma, neuroendocrine carcinomas, adenocarcinoma, and germ cell tumors.

Next-generation sequencing (NGS) and comprehensive molecular profiling as determined by a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved assay, or validated test performed in a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified laboratory is recommended for the following biomarkers: programmed cell death ligand 1 (PD-L1), microsatellite instability-high (MSI-H), tumor mutational burden (TMB), *NTRK* fusion, *RET* fusion, HER2 IHC or fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH), and p53 IHC.

Prognostic and Predictive Biomarkers

The data cited within this section are primarily for cervical cancer and have been generalized to vaginal cancer. Because of the uncommon nature of vaginal cancer and its similarities to cervical cancer, many of the treatment recommendations are derived from those for cervical cancer. Several biomarker-based immune-oncologic agents have been added from the NCCN Guidelines for Cervical Cancer to the NCCN Guidelines for Vaginal Cancer in the management of vaginal cancer (see *Systemic Therapy Recommendations*) and the NCCN Panel recommends comprehensive molecular profiling as determined by an



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

FDA-approved assay, or a validated test performed in a CLIA-certified laboratory.

PD-L1

The NCCN Panel recommends PD-L1 testing by an FDA-approved assay, or a validated test performed in a CLIA-certified laboratory for patients with recurrent, progressive, or metastatic disease to help guide better treatment options in first-line, second-line, or subsequent therapy.¹⁵

The FDA approved pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy, with or without bevacizumab, for patients with persistent, recurrent, or metastatic cervical cancer whose tumors express PD-L1 (combined positive score [CPS] ≥ 1) based on the KEYNOTE-826 study.¹⁵ The NCCN Panel also recommends this regimen as a preferred regimen (category 1) for first-line therapy for recurrent or metastatic vaginal cancer.

KEYNOTE-158 is another phase 2 basket study that evaluated the use of pembrolizumab in multiple cancer types including cervical cancer.¹⁶ The interim results from previously treated patients with advanced cervical cancer demonstrated the durable antitumor activity and manageable safety of pembrolizumab monotherapy. Out of 98 patients treated, 82 (83.7%) had PD-L1–positive tumors (CPS ≥ 1), with 77 having previously received one or more lines of chemotherapy for recurrent or metastatic disease. The primary endpoint, overall response rate (ORR), was 12.2% (95% CI, 6.5%–20.4%), with 3 complete and 9 partial responses (PRs). All 12 responses were in patients with PD-L1–positive tumors, for an ORR of 14.6% (95% CI, 7.8%–24.2%); 14.3% (95% CI, 7.4%–24.1%) of these responses were in those who had received one or more lines of chemotherapy for recurrent or metastatic disease. Based on these results, the FDA granted accelerated approval of pembrolizumab for patients with advanced PD-L1–positive cervical cancer who experienced progression during or after chemotherapy. NCCN also recommends

pembrolizumab as a preferred regimen for patients who are PD-L1–positive for second-line or subsequent therapy for vaginal cancer, based on the recommendations for cervical cancer.

Nivolumab, a checkpoint inhibitor, has shown efficacy in patients with recurrent/metastatic cervical cancer who received at least one prior chemotherapy regimen. The Checkmate-358, phase 1–2, single-arm trial evaluated 19 patients with advanced, pretreated, HPV-associated cervical tumors.¹⁷ The ORR was 26.3% (95% CI, 9.1%–51.2%) and disease control rate was 68.4% (95% CI, 43.4%–87.4%). The 12-month overall survival (OS) rate was 77.5% (95% CI, 50.5%–91.0%). The phase 2 trial (NRG-GY002) showed low anti-tumor activity of nivolumab in 25 patients with pretreated persistent/recurrent cervical cancer; 36% of the patients had stable disease (90% CI, 20.2%–54.4%) as best response with median duration of 5.7 months, and progression-free survival (PFS) and OS at 6 months were 16% and 78.4%, respectively.^{18,19}

Based on the NCCN Guidelines for Cervical Cancer, the Panel continues to recommend nivolumab in the same category of “useful in certain circumstances” for second-line or subsequent therapy for vaginal cancer. Following FDA approval²⁰ of nivolumab and hyaluronidase for subcutaneous injection across approved adult solid tumor as monotherapy, and monotherapy maintenance following completion of nivolumab, the NCCN Panel added that nivolumab and hyaluronidase-nvhy subcutaneous injection may be substituted for IV nivolumab. Nivolumab and hyaluronidase-nvhy has different dosing and administration instructions compared to IV nivolumab.

Mismatch Repair/Microsatellite Instability

Tumors with mismatch repair deficiency (dMMR) represent approximately 2% to 4% of all diagnosed cancers and have a unique genetic signature, harboring 10 to 100 times more mutations than



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

mismatch repair–proficient tumors. These dMMR tumors have MSI-H and harbor 100 to 1000 somatic mutations that encode potential neoantigens and are likely to be immunogenic. The KEYNOTE-158 trial included patients with non-colorectal MSI-H/dMMR tumors in cohort K and the results demonstrated the clinical benefit of pembrolizumab in patients with previously treated unresectable or metastatic MSI-H/dMMR non-colorectal cancer.²¹

Of 233 patients with MSI-H/dMMR advanced non-colorectal cancer whose disease progressed on prior therapy received pembrolizumab, the ORR was 34.3% (95% CI, 28.3%–40.8%). Median PFS was 4.1 months (95% CI, 2.4–4.9 months) and median OS was 23.5 months (95% CI, 13.5 months – not reached[NR]). Extending the NCCN Panel recommendation for cervical cancers, pembrolizumab is also recommended as a preferred regimen for MSI-H/dMMR tumors as a second-line or subsequent therapy for recurrent or metastatic vaginal cancer.

TMB

TMB, defined as the total number of somatic mutations per coding area of a tumor genome, is a measure of all non-synonymous coding mutations in a tumor exome; highly mutated tumors can produce many neoantigens, some of which might increase T-cell reactivity. High TMB has been demonstrated to be associated with treatment response to pembrolizumab.

In a prospective analysis of the multi-cohort, open-label, non-randomized phase 2 KEYNOTE-158 study,²² the association between antitumor activity and tissue TMB (tTMB) in patients who received at least one dose of pembrolizumab was assessed and tTMB-high (tTMB-H) status identified a subgroup of patients who could have a robust tumor response to pembrolizumab monotherapy. Out of 790 TMB-evaluable, treated patients enrolled by at least 26 weeks before data cutoff, 102

(13%) patients were tTMB-H (<10 mutations per megabase [mut/Mb]) and 688 (87%) patients had non-tTMB-H status. With a median study follow-up of 37.1 months, the objective responses were observed in 30 (29%; 95% CI, 21–39) of 102 patients in the tTMB-H group and 43 (6%; 95% CI, 5–8) of 688 patients in the non-tTMB-H group. Cervical cancer had the highest proportion of patients with tTMB-H status (21%) and objective responses were observed in 5 of 16 patients with tTMB-H status and 7 of 59 patients with non-tTMB-H status within the cervical cohort.

The NCCN Panel recommends TMB testing by an FDA-approved assay, or a validated test performed in a CLIA-certified laboratory and recommends pembrolizumab as a preferred regimen for the treatment of patients with TMB-high (TMB-H) (≥10 mut/Mb) tumors that have progressed following prior treatment and who have no satisfactory alternative treatment options (second-line or subsequent therapy).

NTRK Gene Fusion

NTRK gene fusions are found in about 1% of all solid tumors. An integrated efficacy and safety analysis of patients with metastatic or locally advanced solid tumors harboring oncogenic *NTRK1*, *NTRK2*, and *NTRK3* gene fusions treated with entrectinib in three ongoing, early-phase trials (ALKA-372-001, STARTRK-1, and STARTRK-2) showed durable and clinically meaningful responses with manageable safety profile.²³ The efficacy-evaluable population comprised 54 adults with advanced or metastatic *NTRK* fusion-positive solid tumors comprising 10 different tumor types and 19 different histologies, including one patient with cervical sarcoma. Out of 54 patients, 31 (57%; 95% CI, 43.2–70.8) had an objective response, of which 4 (7%) were complete responses (CRs) and 27 (50%) were PRs. Median duration of response (DoR) was 10 months (95% CI, 7.1 – not estimable [NE]). In a long-term efficacy and safety analysis in 121 patients at median follow-up of 25.8



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

months, 61% reported CRs or PRs, median DoR was 20 months (95% CI, 10.1–19.9), and median PFS was 13.8 months (95% CI, 10.1–19.9).²⁴

In another primary analysis, the efficacy and safety of larotrectinib was reported in 55 patients enrolled in three clinical studies who had locally advanced or metastatic tumors with *NTRK* gene fusions and had progressed on standard chemotherapy received previously. The three clinical trials included a phase 1 dose-finding study in adults, a phase 1–2 dose-finding study in a pediatric population, and a phase 2, single-arm, basket trial.²⁵ The ORR of larotrectinib in these patients was 75% (95% CI, 61%–85%), with 13% CR and 62% PR with median DoR and PFS not reached at the time. In a long-term follow-up analysis, out of 153 patients, 121 patients (79%; 95% CI, 72–85) had objective response with 16% having a CR, 63% having a PR, and 12% having stable disease. The median DoR was 35.2 months (22.8–NE) and the median PFS was 28.3 months.²⁶ Both larotrectinib and entrectinib are FDA-approved for *NTRK* gene fusion solid tumors for patients who have progressed following treatment or have no satisfactory standard therapy.^{27,28}

Results from a recent pivotal phase 1/2 TRIDENT-1 trial presented at ESMO Congress, 2023²⁹ showed robust responses and durable clinical activity of repotrectinib, a next-generation ROS1 and TRK tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI) in both TKI-naïve and -pretreated patients with *NTRK* fusion-positive (*NTRK*+) solid tumors, including non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). In a multicenter, single-arm, open-label, multi-cohort trial, efficacy was evaluated in 48 patients with locally advanced or metastatic *NTRK* gene fusion-positive solid tumors who had received a prior TRK TKI and 40 patients who were TKI naïve. Confirmed ORR in the TKI-naïve group was 58% (95% CI: 41-73) and 50% (95% CI: 35-65) in the TKI-pretreated group. Median DoR was NE (95% CI: NE-NE) in the TKI-naïve group and 9.9 months (95% CI: 7.4-13.0) in the TKI-pretreated group. Based on these trial data, the FDA granted accelerated

approval to repotrectinib for patients with locally advanced or metastatic solid tumors that have an *NTRK* gene fusion, and that have progressed following treatment or have no satisfactory alternative therapy.³⁰ The NCCN Panel added the repotrectinib regimen for *NTRK* gene fusion-positive tumors under useful in certain circumstances for second-line or subsequent therapy.

HER2

HER2 expression is observed in a wide range of solid tumors and is an established prognostic biomarker for breast, gastric, and colorectal cancers. Cervical cancer has shown a HER2 positivity rate of approximately 2% to 6% in the literature.³¹⁻³³ Trastuzumab deruxtecan is an antibody-drug conjugate that contains the humanized anti-HER2 monoclonal antibody trastuzumab attached to the topoisomerase inhibitor deruxtecan.³⁴ Another tumor-agnostic study evaluated the durability and clinically meaningful response of trastuzumab deruxtecan across multiple HER2-expressing (IHC 3+ or 2+) advanced solid tumor types in patients who progressed on prior therapy or who have no satisfactory alternative treatment options.

The DESTINY-PanTumor02 is an open-label, multicenter, phase 2 trial that evaluated trastuzumab deruxtecan in 267 patients with HER2-expressing (IHC 3+ or 2+) locally advanced or metastatic disease after ≥1 systemic treatment or without alternative treatments. The study included 40 patients with cervical cancer with IHC2+ or 3+ expression of HER2. Overall, the ORR was 37.1% (n = 99; [95% CI, 31.3–43.2]), the median PFS was 6.9 months (95% CI, 5.6–8.0), and the median OS was 13.4 months (95% CI, 11.9–15.5). In patients with cervical cancer, the confirmed ORR was 50% and for the HER2 IHC3+ cohort, the ORR was 75% and the median OS was 13.6 months.³⁵ The Panel recommends HER2 IHC testing (with or without reflex to HER2 FISH for equivocal IHC) for advanced, metastatic, or recurrent vaginal cancer. The Guidelines



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

include fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan-nxki as category 2A, useful in certain circumstances, second-line/subsequent therapy option for HER2-positive tumors (IHC 3+ or 2+).

RET Gene Fusion

RET gene fusions most commonly occur in thyroid and NSCLCs and are observed in <1% of patients with other solid tumors. The prognosis of disease in this small subset of patients who have progressed on or following prior systemic therapy is poor. The phase 1–2, multicenter, open-label trial, Libretto-001, evaluated the efficacy of selpercatinib in patients with *RET*-mutant advanced solid tumors. In an interim analysis of the trial in a tumor-agnostic population, the efficacy and safety of selpercatinib was investigated in 41 patients with *RET* fusion-positive solid tumors (other than NSCLC and thyroid cancer) with disease progression on or after previous systemic therapies or who had no satisfactory therapeutic options. The ORR was 44% (95% CI, 28.5–60.3), with a median DoR of 24.5 months (95% CI, 9.2–NE).^{36,37} Selpercatinib received tumor-agnostic approval by the FDA for patients with solid tumors with a *RET* gene fusion that has progressed on or following prior systemic treatment or who have no satisfactory alternative treatment options. Comprehensive molecular profiling can be considered by an FDA-approved assay, or a validated test performed in a CLIA-certified laboratory including at least microsatellite instability (MSI), TMB testing, *NTRK*, and *RET* for predicting rare pan-tumor targeted therapy. The NCCN Panel also recommends selpercatinib as a biomarker-directed second-line/subsequent therapy under useful in certain circumstances category for vaginal cancer.

HPV Status/p16

High p16 expression was associated with long-term survival in individuals AFAB with primary carcinoma of the vagina, but the only independent predictors for survival were tumor size and histopathologic

grade. The p16 and Ki-67 expression might be useful in tumor grading, and p16 expression can be used as a marker for HPV positivity.³⁸ The p16 marker has a significant prognostic value in vaginal cancers across all tumor stages. In a retrospective chart review from 1997 to 2006,³⁹ 43 patients with vaginal cancer were evaluated by IHC staining for the presence of p16 and Ki-67 markers, and survival data were examined.

Patients with vaginal cancer (n = 31) with a p16 positive diffuse staining had significantly improved survival (~49.5 months; $P = .003$) compared with patients with p16-negative disease (~25.3 months). Stage-specific analysis showed a significant survival benefit for p16-positive vaginal cancers compared with p16-negative cancers for stages I and II ($P = .017$; hazard ratio [HR], 0.400; 95% CI, 0.189–0.850) and stages III and IV ($P = .001$; HR, 0.176; 95% CI, 0.066–0.479).³⁹ There are several systematic reviews emphasizing the positive prognostic value of HPV and p16 positivity in vaginal cancer.^{40,41} The NCCN Panel recommends ancillary testing to determine HPV status either by p16 IHC or RNA in situ hybridization (ISH) or by DNA sequencing.

p53 IHC

p53 mutations are common in HPV-negative malignancies in older women, and they are linked to an increased risk of mortality.⁷ In vulvar cancer, p16 and p53 IHC have established prognostic value, stratifying patients into three groups based on the HPV and *TP53* mutation status of the tumor. p53 positivity is associated with poor prognosis and significantly increased recurrence and disease-specific mortality in gynecologic cancers.⁴² The *TP53* mutations are present in typical keratinizing carcinomas and precursor lesions with elevated risk for gynecologic cancers. *TP53* mutation seems to occur early in vulvar carcinogenesis and is a useful marker, especially in lesions with increased risk of carcinoma.⁴³ While HPV types 16 and 18 might play a common causal role in cervical carcinoma, p53 gene mutations might be



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

a main causal factor for carcinogenesis in vulvar carcinoma. Vaginal carcinoma is considered to have transitional characteristics between cervical and vulvar carcinoma.⁴⁴ p53 testing by IHC is recommended in HPV-negative cancers. NGS is an acceptable alternative for p53 testing.

Primary Treatment

Most of the trial data cited within this section are primarily for cervical cancer that has been generalized to vaginal cancer.

Invasive (Stage I–IVA) Disease

The primary treatment for early-stage vaginal cancer is radiation therapy (RT) and surgical resection. For the majority of vaginal cancers, radiation is used rather than surgery as primary treatment due to improved organ preservation. For invasive stage I cancer, RT is the preferred regimen with only intracavitary brachytherapy in select favorable patients with small lesions <2 cm and limited thickness (≤5 mm). For >2 cm lesions confined to the vagina, external beam RT (EBRT) with intracavitary brachytherapy or interstitial brachytherapy if >0.5 cm residual thickness at brachytherapy with/without concurrent platinum-containing chemotherapy is recommended.

Another option for patients with invasive stage I disease is surgical resection with or without lymph node assessment only for select patients. Surgery is only recommended if a complete resection with clear margins is feasible without excessive morbidity and with the likelihood that no adjuvant RT would be required. Pelvic lymph nodes need to be assessed for proximal lesions involving the upper two thirds of the vagina, while inguinal lymph nodes should be assessed for distal lesions involving the lower one-third of the vagina. Surgery is only recommended if a complete resection with clear margins is feasible without excessive morbidity and with likelihood that no adjuvant RT would be required. Vaginectomy may be considered for small lesions for which margins are likely to be negative.

For microscopic lesions at the top of the vagina, upper vaginectomy ± hysterectomy may be reasonable. A radical hysterectomy may be appropriate for macroscopic lesions (<2 cm). Every effort should be made to obtain negative margins. With postoperative risk factor of close or positive margin(s) for invasive disease or positive lymph nodes, adjuvant RT or chemoradiation and/or brachytherapy is recommended. The management of positive margins for HSIL should be individualized.

For invasive stage II–IVA disease, the preferred modality for definitive management is platinum-based chemoradiation with brachytherapy. Concurrent chemotherapy has been shown in many series to improve outcomes and is often used in stage II–IV disease. Concurrent platinum-containing chemotherapy with EBRT utilizes cisplatin as a single agent (or carboplatin if cisplatin intolerant). EBRT with brachytherapy is also a recommended regimen for patients with stage II–IVA disease. The addition of brachytherapy to EBRT is preferred as the combination has been shown to improve disease control.

For more information on the important phase 3 clinical trials underpinning treatment recommendations for cervical cancer that were adapted for vaginal cancer, see the [NCCN Clinical Guidelines for Cervical Cancer](#).

Surveillance

The Panel agrees with the new Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) recommendations for post-treatment surveillance.⁴⁵ The recommended surveillance is based on the patient's risk for recurrence and personal preferences. History and physical examinations are recommended every 3 to 6 months for 2 years, every 6 to 12 months for another 3 to 5 years, and then annually.

Many of the recommendations for staging and follow-up of primary vaginal cancer are derived from cervical cancer and they have generalizability to vaginal cancer due to similar tumor biology. The radiation guidance and



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

recommendations for cervical cancer can be extrapolated to vaginal cancer and the principles of post-chemoradiation tumor response evaluation are largely analogous.⁴⁶ Early post-treatment imaging is generally performed following a period of approximately 3 to 4 months after the completion of chemoradiation to assess response.⁴⁶ Further imaging is needed as indicated based on symptoms or examination findings suspicious for recurrence. However, recurrence should be proven by biopsy before proceeding with treatment planning.

Annual cervical/vaginal cytology tests can be considered as indicated for detection of lower genital tract dysplasia (eg, for those who have had fertility-sparing surgery), which includes HPV testing. Some clinicians have suggested that rigorous cytology follow-up is not warranted because of studies stating that Pap cytology did not detect recurrences in patients with stage I or II cervical cancer who were asymptomatic after treatment.^{45,47,48} Noting the inherent differences between these patients and the general screening population, the Panel does not recommend workup of low-grade squamous dysplasia detected during surveillance, but suggests that patients should follow up with a provider with specific expertise in this area. It is important to emphasize good clinical evaluation and a high index of suspicion, because the detection rate of recurrent genital tract cancer is low using cervical and vaginal cytology alone.⁴⁹

Many other tests remain optional based on clinical indications, such as semiannual CBCs, blood urea nitrogen (BUN), and serum creatinine determinations. Patients with persistent or recurrent disease need to be evaluated using additional imaging studies as clinically indicated, biopsy with or without EUA, and surgical exploration in selected cases followed by therapy for relapse (see *Therapy for Relapse*).⁵⁰ Comprehensive molecular profiling as determined by FDA-approved assay or a validated test performed in a CLIA-certified laboratory can be considered for better selection of systemic therapy. If tissue biopsy of a metastatic site is not

feasible or tissue is not available, comprehensive genomic profiling via a validated plasma circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) assay can be considered.

Education of patients regarding symptoms suggestive of recurrence is recommended (eg, vaginal discharge; weight loss; anorexia; pain in the pelvis, hips, back, or legs; persistent coughing). Patients should also be counseled on healthy lifestyle, obesity, nutrition, exercise, sexual health (including vaginal dilator use and lubricants/moisturizers), hormone replacement therapy (local estrogen and hormone therapy for menopause), and potential long-term and late effects of treatment. Smoking cessation and abstinence should be encouraged.⁴⁵ See the [NCCN Guidelines for Survivorship](#), the [NCCN Guidelines for Smoking Cessation](#), and <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/survivorship>.

Cervical cancer survivors are at risk for second cancers such as vaginal cancer.⁵¹ Data suggest that patients who undergo RT for pelvic cancers are at risk for radiation-induced second cancers, especially at radiated sites near the cervix (eg, colon, rectum/anus, urinary bladder); therefore, careful surveillance is appropriate for these patients.^{52,53}

Therapy for Relapse

Recurrences should be proven by biopsy before proceeding to treatment planning for recurrent disease.

Locoregional Recurrence

For patients who experience locoregional recurrences who have not undergone previous RT or who experience recurrences outside of the previously treated RT field, therapy for relapse includes tumor-directed EBRT and/or brachytherapy or EBRT with concurrent platinum-containing chemotherapy and/or brachytherapy. Typically, the chemoradiation for recurrence uses cisplatin as a single agent or carboplatin (if cisplatin intolerant).^{54,55} However, in those patients who have relapsed soon after



completing initial chemoradiation with these regimens, other systemic therapy options might be considered or best supportive care could be offered (see [NCCN Guidelines for Palliative Care](#)).

For patients with locoregional recurrences with prior intracavitary brachytherapy only, individualized EBRT with/without systemic therapy and/or interstitial brachytherapy is recommended. Concurrent surgery is only recommended if a complete resection with clear margins is feasible without excessive morbidity.

Patients with central pelvic recurrent disease after prior EBRT and/or brachytherapy should be evaluated for pelvic exenteration with (or without) intraoperative RT (IORT), although IORT is category 3 for both cervical and vaginal cancers.⁵⁶⁻⁶³ Surgical mortality is generally $\leq 5\%$, with survival rates approaching 50% in carefully selected patients.⁵⁹ Concomitant measures with these radical procedures include adequate rehabilitation programs dealing with the psychosocial and psychosexual consequences of the surgery as well as reconstructive procedures.^{58,64-66} In carefully selected patients, reirradiation or local excision is also recommended. See *Principles of Radiation Therapy* for more information.

For patients with noncentral recurrent disease, options include systemic therapy or resection with (or without) IORT (category 3 for IORT), reirradiation or best supportive care (see [NCCN Guidelines for Palliative Care](#)), or participation in a clinical trial.

Patients who experience recurrence after second-line definitive therapy, either surgery or RT, have a poor prognosis. They can be treated with systemic therapy or best supportive care or can be enrolled in a clinical trial.

Stage IVB or Recurrent Distant Metastatic Disease

Limited Disease

For stage IVB patients or patients with recurrent metastases with limited disease, systemic therapy is one of the options. Comprehensive molecular profiling as determined by FDA-approved assay, or a validated test performed in a CLIA-certified laboratory can be considered for better selection of systemic therapy. Local treatment of the primary disease by chemoradiation with/without brachytherapy can be considered. Local treatment of metastases can also be considered that includes surgery for select patients or individualized EBRT or other local ablative therapies such as radiofrequency ablation, cryoablation, or stereotactic body RT (SBRT).

Disseminated Disease

Patients who develop distant metastases, either at initial presentation or at relapse, are rarely curable. Comprehensive molecular profiling as determined by FDA-approved assay can be considered for better selection of systemic therapy. For patients with disseminated disease, systemic therapy with/without palliative RT and best supportive care are recommended. Patients who may benefit from aggressive local therapy for oligometastatic disease include those with nodal, lung, liver, or bone metastases.^{67,68}

The palliation of pelvic recurrences in heavily irradiated sites that are not amenable to local pain control techniques or to surgical resection is difficult.⁶⁹ These sites are generally not responsive to chemotherapy. Adequately palliating the complications of pain and fistulae from these recurrences is clinically challenging (<https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/270646-overview>). However, short courses of RT may provide symptomatic relief to patients with bone metastases, painful para-aortic nodes, or supraclavicular adenopathy.⁷⁰⁻⁷² For most other patients with distant metastases, an appropriate approach



is a clinical trial, chemotherapy, or best supportive care (see [NCCN Guidelines for Palliative Care](#)).

Systemic Therapy Recommendations

The data cited within this section are primarily for cervical cancer and have been generalized to vaginal cancer. Because of the uncommon nature of vaginal cancer and its similarities to cervical cancer, many of the treatment options are derived from those for cervical cancer. The systemic therapy recommendations for primary vaginal cancer are extrapolated from cervical cancer since they share similar disease etiologies. There are no category 1 treatment recommendations for vaginal cancer due to lack of disease site-specific phase 3 trial data. The majority of cases in the vagina might be arising from another site and the treatment recommendations will be based on corresponding NCCN treatment Guidelines.

Chemoradiation for Locally Advanced Vaginal Cancer

Concurrent chemoradiation, using platinum-containing chemotherapy (cisplatin alone [preferred]), is the treatment of choice for stages IB3, II, III, and IVA disease based on results from randomized clinical trials. These trials have shown that the use of concurrent chemoradiation results in a 30% to 50% decrease in the risk of death compared with RT alone. Long-term follow-up of three trials has confirmed that concurrent cisplatin-containing chemoradiation improves PFS and OS when compared with RT with (or without) hydroxyurea.⁷³⁻⁷⁵ Cisplatin remains the preferred radiosensitizing agent in the primary treatment for patients with locally advanced cervical cancer when used concomitantly with EBRT and carboplatin is a preferred radiosensitizing agent for patients who are cisplatin intolerant.⁷⁶ When cisplatin and carboplatin are unavailable, the other recommended options are capecitabine/mitomycin IV, gemcitabine, and paclitaxel as radiosensitizers based on a few early-phase studies that have shown their efficacy and tolerability when administered concomitantly

with radiation.⁷⁷⁻⁷⁹ A phase 3, randomized trial enrolling 926 patients with locally advanced, stage IIB–IVA cervical cancer evaluated the efficacy of RT plus concurrent chemotherapy consisting of oral 5-fluorouracil (5-FU)/mitomycin as compared to RT only, RT plus adjuvant chemotherapy (5-FU), or RT plus concurrent chemoradiotherapy plus adjuvant chemotherapy.⁷⁷ Although acute side effects were more prevalent in the concurrent arms and the OS was not significant between the arms, the RT plus concurrent chemotherapy arm showed the least locoregional recurrence and the highest 5-year disease-free survival (DFS) when compared with the other arms. In particular, the difference in DFS and OS rate was highly significant when comparing the concurrent chemoradiation arm with the RT-only arm ($P = .0001$). Several studies have shown that although 5-FU/mitomycin combined with RT was effective, the combination is also associated with relatively higher toxicity rates and should be used with caution.^{80,81} The efficacy and safety of gemcitabine combined with pelvic radiation was tested in 19 patients with chemo-naïve, advanced-stage IIB cervical cancer and showed a CR of 89.5% and PR of 5.3% for an ORR of 94.7%. The OS at median follow-up time of 19.9 months was 100% with DFS of 84.2%. Due to gemcitabine's high potency as a radiosensitizer, it requires reduced dosing when used concurrently with radiation to avoid radiation toxicity.⁷⁸ In a comparative study, the disease control and toxicity profile were found to be similar between cisplatin and gemcitabine.⁸² The benefit of paclitaxel alone as a radiosensitizer has not been extensively studied in the literature and there are only a few known preclinical or early-phase studies of its efficacy. In a pilot study to evaluate paclitaxel with RT, CR was achieved by 8 out of 13 patients with locally advanced cervical cancer and by 4 out of 6 patients treated with a recurrent disease.⁸³ Although chemoradiation is tolerated, acute and long-term side effects have been reported.⁸⁴⁻⁸⁶ Due to significant toxicity concerns associated with these agents, cisplatin or carboplatin is a preferred agent over other non-platinum chemoradiation regimens.



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

The NCCN Panel has noted for all chemoradiation agents that the cost and toxicity profiles of these radiosensitizing agents should be considered when selecting an appropriate regimen for treatment and have strongly expressed that this is especially critical when these regimens are being used for extended-field RT where toxicities may be more severe.

Systemic Therapy for Recurrent or Metastatic Vaginal Cancer

Systemic therapy with or without radiation forms the basis of treatment of patients with recurrent or metastatic disease.

First-Line Systemic Therapy Options

Preferred Regimens

Pembrolizumab Plus Chemotherapy With or Without Bevacizumab as First-Line Therapy

The NCCN Guidelines for Cervical Cancer include two immunotherapy-based regimens as preferred, first-line therapy options for the treatment of PD-L1–positive recurrent or metastatic cancer, and that recommendation is extrapolated to vaginal cancer management as well. Pembrolizumab combined with chemotherapy with or without bevacizumab regimens is a preferred treatment option based on the results of the KEYNOTE-826 study.¹⁵ In the primary analysis of the phase 3, KEYNOTE-826 trial, which enrolled 617 patients (548 with PD-L1–positive CPS ≥ 1 tumors; 317 patients with CPS ≥ 10) with previously untreated persistent, recurrent, or metastatic cervical cancer, the addition of pembrolizumab to chemotherapy with or without bevacizumab improved PFS and OS versus the placebo group (PFS, 10.4 vs. 8.2 months, respectively; HR, 0.65; 95% CI, 0.53–0.79; $P < .001$, and OS at 24 months: 50.4% vs. 40.4%, respectively; HR, 0.67; 95% CI, 0.54–0.84; $P < .001$). The ORR was significantly higher in the pembrolizumab arm as compared to the placebo group in patients with PD-L1–positive (CPS ≥ 1) tumors (68.1% vs. 50.2%). The FDA approved pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy, with or without bevacizumab for patients with persistent,

recurrent, or metastatic cervical cancer whose tumors express PD-L1 (CPS ≥ 1). In the final updated analysis of the trial results, the addition of pembrolizumab to chemotherapy with or without bevacizumab continued to show significant survival benefits in the PD-L1–positive (CPS ≥ 1) tumors at a median follow-up of 39.1 months with a median OS and PFS of 28.6 and 10.5 months versus 16.5 and 8.2 months in the pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy arm versus the placebo plus chemotherapy arm, respectively (HR, 0.60; 95% CI, 0.49–0.74; $P < .0001$).⁸⁷

Platinum-based chemotherapy (cisplatin or carboplatin)/paclitaxel with bevacizumab has been extensively investigated in clinical studies and is listed in the NCCN Guidelines as a preferred, first-line treatment option for patients with recurrent/metastatic vaginal cancer (based on the GOG 240 trial).

A randomized phase 3 trial (GOG 240) studied the addition of bevacizumab to combination chemotherapy regimens (cisplatin/paclitaxel/bevacizumab or topotecan/paclitaxel/bevacizumab) in 452 patients in the first-line setting of metastatic, persistent, or recurrent cervical cancer. Analysis of pooled data from the two chemotherapy regimens revealed significant improvements in OS among patients receiving bevacizumab (16.8 vs. 13.3 months; $P = .007$).⁸⁸ While bevacizumab led to higher toxicity (eg, hypertension, thromboembolic events, gastrointestinal [GI] fistula), it was not associated with a statistically significant decrease in patient-reported quality of life ($P = .27$).⁸⁹ A 2017 systemic review and meta-analysis of data from 19 trials of systemic therapy for patients with recurrent, persistent, or metastatic cervical cancer found a trend towards improved OS for the addition of bevacizumab to cisplatin/paclitaxel or topotecan/paclitaxel when compared with all other non-bevacizumab–containing chemotherapy regimens.⁹⁰



The published data from a phase 3 randomized trial (JCOG0505) suggested that carboplatin/paclitaxel was non-inferior to cisplatin/paclitaxel in 253 patients with metastatic or recurrent cervical cancer.⁹¹ Many physicians use carboplatin/paclitaxel because of ease of administration and tolerability.⁹² Results from JCOG0505 showed that the paclitaxel/carboplatin regimen was non-inferior to paclitaxel/cisplatin in terms of median OS (18.3 months for paclitaxel/cisplatin vs. 17.5 months for paclitaxel/carboplatin; HR, 0.994 [90% CI, 0.79–1.25]; $P = .032$) and non-hospitalization periods were significantly longer for patients receiving paclitaxel/carboplatin.⁹¹ However, among patients who had not received prior cisplatin, OS for carboplatin/paclitaxel and cisplatin/paclitaxel was 13.0 and 23.2 months, respectively (HR, 1.571; 95% CI, 1.06–2.32).⁹¹ Based on these data, the Panel recommends carboplatin/paclitaxel as a preferred option for patients who have received prior cisplatin therapy.

A systematic review of the data on cisplatin/paclitaxel and carboplatin/paclitaxel regimens also suggested that lower toxicity carboplatin-based regimens appear to be an equally effective alternative to cisplatin-containing regimens for treating recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer.⁹³ Based on the collective findings from GOG 240 and JGOG0505, the Panel has included carboplatin/paclitaxel/bevacizumab as an additional preferred regimen for recurrent or metastatic vaginal cancer.

Other Recommended Regimens

Cisplatin is generally regarded as the most active agent and is recommended as a first-line single-agent chemotherapy option for recurrent or metastatic vaginal cancer; reported response rates for cervical cancer are approximately 20% to 30%, with an occasional CR.⁹⁴⁻⁹⁷ OS with cisplatin is approximately 6 to 9 months. Both carboplatin and paclitaxel have each been reported to be tolerable and efficacious and are also possible first-line single-agent chemotherapy options.⁹⁸⁻¹⁰² Therefore, palliation with single agents—cisplatin, carboplatin, or paclitaxel—is a

reasonable approach in patients with recurrent disease not amenable to surgical or radiotherapeutic approaches. However, most patients who develop metastatic disease have received concurrent cisplatin/RT as primary treatment and may no longer be sensitive to single-agent platinum therapy.^{97,103}

Cisplatin/paclitaxel, carboplatin/paclitaxel, topotecan/paclitaxel/bevacizumab, topotecan/paclitaxel, and cisplatin/topotecan are also recommended as appropriate alternate options under the other recommended regimens category.^{88,97,103-106} A randomized phase 3 study (GOG 169) in 264 patients compared cisplatin/paclitaxel versus cisplatin alone for metastatic, recurrent, or persistent cervical cancer. Patients receiving the 2-drug combination had a higher response rate (36% vs. 19%) and improved PFS (4.8 vs. 2.8 months; $P > .001$) compared to single-agent cisplatin, although no improvement was seen in median survival.⁹⁷ Patients whose disease responded to cisplatin/paclitaxel had a significant improvement in quality of life. Another randomized phase 3 study (GOG 179) in 294 patients investigated cisplatin/topotecan versus cisplatin alone for recurrent or persistent cervical cancer. The topotecan combination regimen was shown to be superior to single-agent cisplatin with respect to ORR (27% vs. 13%; $P = .004$), PFS (4.6 vs. 2.9 months; $P = .014$), and median survival (9.4 vs. 6.5 months; $P = .017$).¹⁰³ The FDA has approved cisplatin/topotecan for advanced cervical cancer. However, the cisplatin/paclitaxel or carboplatin/paclitaxel regimens are less toxic and easier to administer than cisplatin/topotecan.¹⁰⁷

A phase 3 trial (GOG 204) compared four cisplatin-doublet regimens (cisplatin/paclitaxel, cisplatin/topotecan, cisplatin/gemcitabine, and cisplatin/vinorelbine) in 513 patients with advanced metastatic or recurrent cervical cancer.¹⁰⁶ The trial was closed early based on futility analysis, because it was apparent that the cisplatin/topotecan,



cisplatin/gemcitabine, and cisplatin/vinorelbine regimens were not superior to the control arm of cisplatin/paclitaxel. No significant differences in OS were seen; however, the trends for response rate, PFS, and OS (12.9 vs. 10 months) suggest that cisplatin/paclitaxel is superior to the other regimens. Cisplatin/paclitaxel was associated with less thrombocytopenia and anemia (but with more nausea, vomiting, infection, and alopecia) than the other regimens. While topotecan/paclitaxel was not shown to be superior to cisplatin/paclitaxel, it may be considered as an alternative in patients who are not candidates for cisplatin.⁸⁸

Based on previous studies, cisplatin/paclitaxel and carboplatin/paclitaxel have become the most widely used systemic regimens for metastatic or recurrent cervical cancer and this is also recommended for vaginal cancer. However, for patients who may not be candidates for taxanes, cisplatin/topotecan remains a reasonable alternative regimen.¹⁰³

Second-Line/Subsequent Systemic Therapy Options

Immunotherapy as Preferred, Second-Line/Subsequent Therapy

Increasingly available data from several prospective studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of immunotherapies or specific biomarker-based therapies in the setting of disease progression and have significantly transformed the management of cervical cancer. In addition, many biomarker-specific therapies have demonstrated meaningful clinical efficacy and durability regardless of the underlying tumor type leading to an increase in tumor-agnostic regulatory approvals.

Pembrolizumab as a Preferred, Second-Line/Subsequent Therapy

Pembrolizumab is an FDA-approved therapy for patients with recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer with disease progression on or after chemotherapy for PD-L1–positive tumors (CPS ≥ 1). It is also approved for unresectable or metastatic MSI-H/dMMR or TMB-H solid tumors that have progressed following prior treatment and who have no satisfactory

alternative treatment options. In the NCCN Guidelines, pembrolizumab monotherapy is the preferred, second-line therapy option for recurrent/metastatic MSI-H/dMMR or TMB-H or PD-L1–positive tumors based on the results from KEYNOTE-028 (phase 1b) and KEYNOTE-158 (phase 2) trials.^{22,108,109}

Chemotherapy as Other Recommended, Second-Line/Subsequent Therapy

Other recommended agents that have shown responses or prolongation of PFS and may be useful as second-line therapy include bevacizumab,¹⁰⁶ albumin-bound paclitaxel (ie, nab-paclitaxel),¹¹⁰ docetaxel,¹¹¹ fluorouracil,¹¹² gemcitabine,¹¹³ ifosfamide,^{114,115} irinotecan,¹¹⁶ mitomycin,¹¹⁷ pemetrexed,¹¹⁸ topotecan,^{119,120} and vinorelbine.¹²¹

Tisotumab vedotin-tftv (TV) is also recommended for second-line or subsequent therapy for recurrent or metastatic vaginal cancer based on the innovaTV-204 trial. This phase 2 single-arm study evaluated the efficacy of TV in 102 patients with recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer who had progressed on previous systemic therapy.¹²² At the median follow-up of 10 months, the confirmed ORR was 24% (95% CI, 16–33), which included a 7% CR and 17% PR, and the median DoR was 8.3 months (95% CI, 4.2–NR). Following the results from the innovaTV-201 and innovaTV-204 trials that showed clinically meaningful and durable activity of TV against pretreated recurrent/metastatic cervical cancer, the FDA granted accelerated approval for adult patients with recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer with disease progression on or after chemotherapy.¹²³ The results from the phase 3, randomized, innovaTV-301/ENGOT-cx12/GOG-3057 trial were recently published at ESMO Congress 2023.¹²⁴ Among the 502 patients who were randomized (TV: 253; chemotherapy: 249); the TV arm had a 30% reduction in risk of death versus chemotherapy (HR, 0.70; 95% CI, 0.54–0.89; $P = .0038$). The results showed a median follow-up of 10.8 months (95% CI, 10.3–11.6), with significantly longer median OS (11.5 months [95% CI, 9.8–



14.9] versus 9.5 months [95% CI, 7.9–10.7]). PFS was superior in the TV versus chemotherapy arm (HR, 0.67; 95% CI, 0.54–0.82; $P < .0001$). Confirmed ORR was 17.8% and 5.2% in the TV and chemotherapy arms, respectively (odds ratio [OR], 4.0; 95% CI, 2.1–7.6; $P < .0001$).

Cemiplimab is a PD-1–blocking monoclonal antibody shown to have anti-tumor activity against cervical cancer. The phase 3, randomized, Empower-Cervical-1 clinical trial evaluated the efficacy of cemiplimab or investigator’s choice of chemotherapy (topotecan, vinorelbine, gemcitabine, irinotecan, or pemetrexed) in patients with recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer who have progressed on prior therapy.¹²⁵ The trial enrolled 608 patients, who had previously received one or more lines of systemic therapy for recurrence, and they were randomized to either receive cemiplimab or chemotherapy. The median OS and PFS were significantly longer in the cemiplimab arm than in the control arm (12 vs. 8.5 months; HR, 0.69; 95% CI, 0.56–0.84; $P < .001$ and 2.8 vs. 2.9 months; HR, 0.75; 95% CI, 0.63–0.89; $P < .001$, respectively). Sixteen percent of the patients in the test arm achieved an OR (95% CI, 12.5–21.1) as compared to 6.3% (95% CI, 3.8–9.6) in the chemotherapy arm. The median OS in SCC and adenocarcinoma/adenosquamous carcinoma of the cervix in the cemiplimab versus chemotherapy arm was 11.1 versus 8.8 months (HR, 0.73; 95% CI, 0.58–0.91) and 13.3 versus 7 months (HR, 0.56; 95% CI, 0.36–0.85), respectively, indicating that there is an OS benefit irrespective of histology. In a sub-analysis of the study, samples from 254 patients were evaluated for PD-L1 expression to test the efficacy of cemiplimab in tumors with PD-L1 expression of $\geq 1\%$. The median OS of cemiplimab-treated PD-L1–expressed tumors (CPS ≥ 1) versus chemotherapy was 13.9 versus 9.3 months (HR, 0.70; 95% CI, 0.46–1.05) while the OS benefit for tumors with low PD-L1 expression (CPS < 1) was comparable in the two arms, although the study authors noted that due to smaller size of the sub-group population, reliable assessment of the benefits could not be made. According to the patient-reported outcomes,¹²⁶ cemiplimab conferred favorable differences in

global health status (GHS)/quality of life and physical functioning compared with chemotherapy among patients with recurrent cervical cancer, and clinically meaningful differences favoring cemiplimab in role functioning, appetite loss, and pain. In the recent version of the NCCN Guidelines for Vaginal Cancer, cemiplimab was moved to other recommended regimens as a second-line/subsequent-therapy option.

Biomarker-Directed, Useful in Certain Circumstances, Second-Line/Subsequent Therapy

The NCCN Guidelines for Vaginal Cancer have included a list of biomarkers with their associated targeted treatments as second-line/subsequent therapies under “useful in certain circumstances” options. The *Principles of Pathology* section of the Guidelines provides recommendations for individual biomarkers that should be evaluated for targeted therapy.

Nivolumab for PD-L1–Positive Tumor

Nivolumab, a checkpoint inhibitor, has shown efficacy in patients with recurrent/metastatic cervical cancer who received at least one prior chemotherapy regimen. Based on Checkmate-358 data (see *Prognostic and Predictive Biomarkers* section), this recommendation is part of the 1.2025 version of NCCN Guidelines for Vaginal Cancer.

Trastuzumab Deruxtecan for HER2-Positive Tumor

Another tumor-agnostic study evaluated the durability and clinically meaningful response of trastuzumab deruxtecan across multiple HER2-expressing (IHC 3+ or 2+) advanced solid tumor types in patients who progressed on prior therapy or who have no satisfactory alternative treatment options. HER2 expression is observed in a wide range of solid tumors and is an established prognostic biomarker for breast, gastric, and colorectal cancers. Cervical cancer has shown a HER2 positivity rate of approximately 2% to 6% in the literature.^{31–33} Trastuzumab deruxtecan is an antibody-drug conjugate that contains the humanized anti-HER2



monoclonal antibody trastuzumab attached to the topoisomerase inhibitor deruxtecan.³⁴

Based on the DESTINY-PanTumor02 trial (see *Prognostic and Predictive Biomarkers* section), Version 1.2025 of the NCCN Guidelines for Vaginal Cancer includes fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan-nxki as a category 2A, useful in certain circumstances, second-line/subsequent therapy option for HER2-positive tumors (IHC 3+ or 2+). The Panel recommends HER2 IHC testing (with reflex to HER2 FISH for equivocal IHC) for vaginal cancer.

Selpercatinib for RET Gene Fusion Tumor

Selpercatinib received tumor-agnostic approval by the FDA for patients with solid tumors with a *RET* gene fusion that has progressed on or following prior systemic treatment or who have no satisfactory alternative treatment options. The NCCN Panel recommends selpercatinib as a biomarker-directed second-line/subsequent therapy under useful in certain circumstances category for *RET* gene fusion-positive tumors given its efficacy in tumor-agnostic population. The NCCN Panel also specified that *RET* gene fusion testing may be considered for patients with vaginal cancer (see *Prognostic and Predictive Biomarkers* section).

TRK Inhibitors for NTRK Gene Fusion Tumor

In addition to selpercatinib, other targeted therapy regimens included in the NCCN Guidelines for Vaginal Cancer as biomarker-directed second-line/subsequent therapies that have been approved in a tumor-agnostic population are the TRK inhibitors, larotrectinib and entrectinib. Larotrectinib targets the TRK proteins that are encoded by the genes *NTRK1*, *NTRK2*, and *NTRK3*. *NTRK* gene fusions are found in about 1% of all solid tumors. The NCCN Guidelines for Vaginal Cancer recommend larotrectinib, entrectinib, and repotrectinib as a second-line or subsequent, useful in certain circumstances option for *NTRK* gene fusion-positive tumors based on FDA approval and several clinical trials (see *Prognostic and Predictive Biomarkers* section).

Principles of Radiation Therapy

RT is preferred in the management of vaginal cancer rather than surgery as primary treatment due to improved organ preservation. Preferred modalities for definitive management include either concurrent pelvic chemoradiation (platinum-based) and brachytherapy or EBRT and brachytherapy. The addition of brachytherapy to external beam is preferred as the combination has been shown to improve control. The overall treatment time should not extend beyond 8 weeks and treatment delays and interruptions need to be minimized.

The algorithm provides general RT dosage recommendations, which should not be interpreted as stand-alone recommendations because RT techniques and clinical judgment are an essential part of developing an appropriate treatment regimen.

Since vaginal cancer is rare, prospective trials of patients with vaginal cancer have not been feasible, and single-institutional reports of clinical outcomes spanning several decades have been the evidence for current treatment recommendations. The management of vaginal cancer is currently extrapolated from prospective studies of cervical cancer, due to their similarities in disease etiology.¹²⁷ The radiation guidance and recommendations for cervical cancer can be extrapolated to vaginal cancer and the principles of post-chemoradiation tumor response evaluation are largely analogous.⁴⁶

Radiation Treatment Planning

Technologic advances in imaging, computer treatment planning systems, and linear accelerator technology have enabled the more precise delivery of radiation doses to the pelvis. However, physical accuracy of dose delivery must be matched to a clear understanding of tumor extent, potential pathways of spread, and historical patterns of locoregional recurrence to avoid geographic misses.



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

Pelvic MRI with and without IV contrast and vaginal gel to assess local disease extent is the preferred workup. The neck/chest/abdomen/pelvis/groin FDG-PET/CT is preferred to evaluate metastatic disease. The chest/abdomen/pelvis CT is also recommended. Other initial imaging should be based on symptomatology and clinical concern for metastatic disease.

CT-based treatment planning with conformal blocking and dosimetry is considered standard care for EBRT. As with cervical cancer, FIGO encourages the use of advanced imaging modalities (CT, MRI, and PET) to guide therapy, although in under-resourced settings the imaging findings may not be used to determine the stage to preserve the FIGO system.

In patients who are not surgically staged, FDG-PET imaging is useful to help define the nodal volume of coverage and may be useful postoperatively to confirm removal of abnormal nodes.¹²⁸ FDG-PET/CT imaging is preferred at 3 to 4 months after RT. MRI is also needed if FDG-PET/CT is difficult to obtain or needed for clarification or exam findings. Repeating imaging is also recommended if clinically indicated. IMRT technique is preferred to minimize toxicities in definitive treatment of the pelvis with or without para-aortic treatment. Adaptive planning with image-guided RT (IGRT), especially if IMRT is utilized, is encouraged. Brachytherapy is an important component of definitive therapy in patients with vaginal cancer, although brachytherapy alone is not recommended for most tumors, even early-stage, due to a high recurrence rate.¹²⁹

Brachytherapy is typically combined with EBRT in an integrated treatment plan. SBRT allows delivery of very high doses of focused EBRT and may be applied to isolated metastatic sites.^{130,131} Local ablative therapies such as SBRT are recommended for patients with stage IVB disease or patients with recurrent distant metastases, with limited disease.

Concepts regarding the gross tumor volume (GTV), clinical target volume (CTV), planning target volume (PTV), organs at risk (OARs), and dose-volume histogram (DVH) have been defined for use in image-guided adaptive brachytherapy (IGABT).^{132,133}

There are increasing efforts to use and standardize image-based volumetric brachytherapy approaches using MRI, CT, or ultrasound. International validation efforts with different studies including the EMBRACE-I study, which is a benchmark study that represents a positive breakthrough in the treatment of locally advanced cervical cancer, are underway.¹³⁴⁻¹⁴⁰

Brachytherapy

Brachytherapy is encouraged for all suitable patients with primary vaginal cancer. Orton et al¹⁴¹ evaluated the impact of brachytherapy on survival in patients with vaginal cancer who received radiotherapy. Based on the two retrospective cohorts (women who received EBRT alone and those who received brachytherapy [alone or in combination of EBRT]), median OS for patients receiving EBRT alone was 3.6 years (95% CI, 3.0–4.2 years) versus 6 years. Cox proportional hazard model revealed decreased risk of death among patients who received brachytherapy in the matched cohort (HR, 0.77; 95% CI, 0.68–0.86). Brachytherapy reduced risk of death among patients in all stage groups, including 1 year (95% CI, 5.2–7.2 years) for patients receiving brachytherapy ($P \leq .001$). Brachytherapy was also associated with a reduction in risk of death for all FIGO stages.

The choice of the brachytherapy modality is based on the residual tumor thickness following pelvic RT. For residual disease measuring <5 mm in thickness, vaginal cylinder brachytherapy is appropriate, whereas for bulky residual tumors, interstitial implants are performed. The most common brachytherapy modalities used in clinical practice are low dose-rate (LDR), high dose-rate (HDR), and pulsed dose-rate delivery.¹²⁷ HDR and LDR



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

intracavitary brachytherapy have comparable local control, survival, and complication rates.¹⁴² For cylinder brachytherapy, the full vaginal length typically receives a cumulative dose of 60 to 65 Gy, while the region of the tumor is boosted an additional 10 to 20 Gy.¹⁴³ For interstitial brachytherapy, the cumulative delivered dose ranges from 70 to 85 Gy, and the recommended dose schedules are described elsewhere.¹⁴⁴ For 3D treatment planning, simulation with MRI or fusion of MRI images with CT simulation at the time of interstitial brachytherapy has been reported with favorable outcomes.¹⁴⁵ For CT-based planning, the placement of fiducial markers may be used to demarcate the superior, inferior, and lateral extent of the tumor for contouring purposes.¹²⁷

In a large retrospective multicenter study, IGABT for primary vaginal cancer demonstrated a high local control with acceptable morbidity. The results from this study illustrated that IGABT could play an important role in the treatment of vaginal cancer. This study assessed outcomes following the nowadays standing treatment for primary vaginal cancer with radio(chemo)therapy and IGABT in a multicenter patient cohort. Retrospective data collection included tumor and treatment characteristics of patients treated with CT–MRI-assisted-based IGABT. At a median follow-up of 29 months (interquartile range [IQR], 25–57), 2- and 5-year local control were 86% and 83%; DFS was 73% and 66%, and OS was 79% and 68%, respectively. Univariate analysis showed improved local control in patients with T2–T4 tumors if >80 Gy equivalent dose at 2 Gy (EQD2) α/β 10 was delivered to the CTV at the time of brachytherapy.

Ferrigno et al published a report on the comparative outcome of patients with cervical cancer treated with LDR and HDR brachytherapy.¹⁴⁶ In this retrospective analysis, 190 patients were treated with LDR brachytherapy, and 118 patients were treated with HDR brachytherapy.

The OS, DFS, and local control at 5 years were better in the LDR group (69% vs. 55%, $P = .007$; 73% vs. 56%, $P = .002$; and 74% vs. 65%; $P =$

.04, respectively) for all stages combined. However, for clinical stages I and II, no differences were seen in OS, DFS, and local control at 5 years between the two groups. For clinical stage III, although OS and DFS at 5 years were better in the LDR than in the HDR group (46% vs. 36%, $P = .04$ and 49% vs. 37%, $P = .03$, respectively), the 5-year probability of rectal complications was higher in the LDR group than in the HDR group (16% vs. 8%, $P = .03$).

Thus, similar outcomes were observed for patients who were in stages I and II treated with either HDR or LDR brachytherapy. Although lower OS and DFS were observed for patients who were stage III treated with HDR brachytherapy, fewer late rectal complications were observed in this group. These findings were probably the result of the relatively low HDR brachytherapy dose delivered at Point A.

For very-early-stage vaginal cancers (<5 mm) not requiring EBRT, intracavitary brachytherapy alone may be used. The LDR data suggest improved outcomes with doses of approximately 60–70 Gy EQD2 to the vaginal surface. For invasive cancers, common HDR fractionation regimens after 45 Gy to pelvis include 4.5 to 5.5 Gy x 5 fx to the HR-CTV.

Either less fractionated or more fractionated regimens may be used, such as 7 Gy x 3 fx or 3 Gy x 9 to 10 fx. Modulation of dose takes into consideration tumor location, extent of disease, response to EBRT, brachytherapy technique (intracavitary or interstitial), relationship to surrounding OARs, as well as other factors. The HDR data are more varied, with total doses in the range of 50 to 60 Gy EQD2. The appropriate dose for each case needs to be individualized.

External Beam Radiation Therapy/Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy

Definitive RT, which consists of a combination of EBRT and brachytherapy, has been shown to yield excellent outcomes.¹²⁹ The



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

advantage of RT is the preservation of the vagina as well as other organs. Brachytherapy alone is not recommended for most tumors, even early-stage, due to a high recurrence rate.

Frank et al¹²⁹ evaluated the outcomes and describe clinical treatment guidelines for patients with vaginal cancer treated with definitive RT. In this single-institution report, a total of 193 patients with vaginal cancer treated with definitive RT were reviewed to obtain patient information including treatment characteristics and surviving patients were followed for a median of 137 months.

At 5 years, disease-specific survival (DSS) rates were 85% (stage I), 78% (stage II), and 58% (stage III–IVA disease) ($P = .0013$) and pelvic disease control rates were 86% (stage I), 84% (stage II), and 71% (stage III–IVA) ($P = .027$). The predominant mode of relapse after definitive RT was locoregional (68% and 83%, respectively, for patients with stages I–II or III–IVA) disease.

A unified approach to techniques and prescription/fractionation schedules for both EBRT and IGABT is required and RetroEMBRACE and EMBRACE I studies have demonstrated that clinical outcome is related to dose prescription and technique. The EMBRACE II study is an interventional and observational multicenter study that aims to benchmark a high level of local, nodal, and systemic control while limiting morbidity, using an advanced target volume selection and contouring protocol for EBRT and a multiparametric brachytherapy dose prescription protocol for brachytherapy, and use of advanced EBRT (IMRT and IGRT) and brachytherapy (intracavitary/interstitial) techniques.¹⁴⁷

The addition of brachytherapy to external pelvic radiation increases survival in stages III–IV. A retrospective analysis of patients with primary squamous, adenocarcinoma, and adenosquamous carcinoma of the vagina were identified from the Mayo Clinic Cancer Registry (1998–2018)

to analyze clinical characteristics and survival of patients with primary vaginal cancer by Yang et al.¹⁴⁸ In a total of 124 patients, primary surgery in stage I–II patients had similar survival outcomes as compared to primary radiation, but postoperative RT rate was 55%. Brachytherapy alone was associated with a high local recurrence rate (80%) in stage I–II patients. The addition of brachytherapy had improved 5-year PFS and DSS compared to EBRT alone in patients with stage III–IVA disease ($P < .001$).

General recommendations for radiation volumes and doses for both EBRT and brachytherapy are discussed in the algorithm.

External Beam Boost

Intensity-modulated RT is becoming more widely available; however, issues regarding target definition, patient and target immobilization, tissue deformation, toxicity, and reproducibility remain to be validated.^{149–156} Dose-escalated IMRT (limiting V55 to below 15 cm³ and limiting the dose to duodenum) can safely and effectively treat para-aortic nodal disease in gynecologic malignancies reducing the risk of late duodenal toxicity.¹⁵⁷ Among 105 patients with gynecologic primary tumors and treated to a nodal CTV to 45 to 50.4 Gy with a boost to 60 to 66 Gy, only 9 of 105 patients (2 of 38 cervical patients) experienced duodenal toxicity with 3-year actuarial rate of any duodenal toxicity of 11.7%. IMRT technique can reduce acute and chronic GI and hematologic toxicity.

An international, multicenter, phase 2 clinical trial (INTERTECC-2) evaluated acute hematologic and GI toxicity for 83 patients with cervical cancer who received weekly cisplatin concurrently with once-daily IMRT, followed by intracavitary brachytherapy.¹⁵⁸ The primary endpoint was the occurrence of either acute grade ≥ 3 neutropenia or clinically significant GI toxicity within 30 days of completing chemoradiation therapy. The incidence of any primary event was 26.5% (95% CI, 18.2%–36.9%), and



the incidence of grade ≥ 3 neutropenia and clinically significant GI toxicity was 19.3% (95% CI, 12.2%–29.0%) and 12.0% (95% CI, 6.7%–20.8%), respectively. Compared with patients treated without image-guided IMRT ($n = 48$), those treated with image-guided IMRT ($n = 35$) had a significantly lower incidence of grade ≥ 3 neutropenia (8.6% vs. 27.1%; 2-sided χ^2 ; $P = .035$).

Several retrospective analyses suggest that prolonged RT treatment duration has an adverse effect on outcome.¹⁵⁹⁻¹⁶³ Extending the overall treatment beyond 6 to 8 weeks can result in approximately a 0.5% to 1% decrease in pelvic control and cause specific survival for each extra day of overall treatment time. Thus, although no prospective randomized trials have been performed, it is generally accepted that the entire RT course (including both EBRT and brachytherapy components) should be completed in a timely fashion (within 8 weeks); delays or splits in the radiation treatment should be avoided whenever possible.

Reirradiation

Techniques for re-irradiation may include IORT, intracavitary or interstitial brachytherapy, SBRT, IMRT, or proton therapy.¹⁶⁴⁻¹⁶⁶ Such cases are highly customized and depend on the target, proximity to critical organs, previous RT dose, extent of overlap, and time intervals since prior RT. The appropriate dose for each case needs to be individualized.

IORT is a specialized technique that delivers a single, highly focused dose of radiation to an at-risk tumor bed or isolated unresectable residual disease during an open surgical procedure.¹⁴¹ It is particularly useful in patients with recurrent disease within a previously radiated volume. During IORT, overlying normal tissue (such as bowel or other viscera) can be manually displaced from the region at risk. IORT is typically delivered with electrons, brachytherapy, or miniaturized x-ray sources using preformed applicators of variable sizes matched to the surgically defined region at

risk, which further constrains the area and depth of radiation exposure to avoid surrounding normal structures. For patients with locoregional recurrence who have received prior EBRT with/without brachytherapy, IORT is recommended as NCCN category 3 with major NCCN disagreement that the intervention is appropriate.

Other techniques for reirradiation may include intracavitary or interstitial brachytherapy, SBRT, IMRT, or proton therapy. Such cases are highly individualized and depend on the target, proximity to critical organs, previous RT dose, extent of overlap, and time intervals since prior RT. The appropriate dose for each case needs to be individualized.

Concurrent Chemoradiation

Based on a small retrospective series and adaptation from cervical cancer, concurrent chemoradiation therapy (CCRT) may be used in vaginal cancer.

In a single-institution report, clinical outcomes in patients with primary vaginal cancer with RT or CCRT were reviewed.¹⁶⁷ A total of 51 patients were treated with RT alone; 20 patients were treated with CCRT, recurrences were analyzed, and OS and DFS rates were estimated. The 3-year OS of the RT group was 56% compared to 76% in the CCRT group (log-rank $P = .037$). The 3-year DFS rate was 43% in the RT group compared to 73% in the CCRT group (log-rank $P = .011$). Twenty-three patients (45%) in the RT group had a relapse at any site compared to 3 (15%) in the CRT group ($P = .027$). Regarding the sites of first relapse, 10 patients (14%) had local only, 4 (6%) had local and regional, 9 (13%) had regional only, 1 (1%) had regional and distant, and 2 (3%) had distant-only relapse. Concurrent chemotherapy should be considered for patients with vaginal cancer.

The adoption rate of CCRT and its survival impact were analyzed using the National Cancer Database (NCDB), which included patients



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

diagnosed with vaginal cancer who received definitive RT.¹⁶⁸ Of the 13,689 patients identified, 8222 (60.1%) received RT. Of these, 3932 (47.8%) received CCRT and its use increased from 20.8% to 59.1% (1998–2011). Median OS is longer with CCRT compared to radiation alone (56.2 vs. 41.2 months, $P < .0005$). This large, national cohort study emphasized the increased use of CCRT for patients with vaginal cancer and its association with a significant survival improvement. Chemoradiation with brachytherapy is the preferred regimen for patients with vaginal cancer with stage II–IVA disease.

Normal Tissue Considerations

Planning for RT in vaginal cancer must consider the potential impact on surrounding critical structures, such as rectum, bladder, sigmoid, small bowel, and bone. Acute effects (ie, diarrhea, bladder irritation, fatigue) occur to some degree in most patients undergoing radiation and are typically magnified by concurrent chemotherapy. However, acute effects can often be managed with medications and supportive care, and they generally resolve soon after completion of radiation. To avoid treatment-related menopause, ovarian transposition can be considered before pelvic RT in select young patients (<45 years with early-stage disease).¹⁶⁹⁻¹⁷¹

Late complications from RT in patients with gynecologic cancer may include potential injury to bladder, rectum, bowel, and pelvic skeletal structures.¹⁷² The risk of major complications (eg, obstruction, fibrosis/necrosis, fistula) is related to the volume, total dose, dose per fraction, and specific intrinsic radiosensitivity of the normal tissue that is irradiated.¹⁷³⁻¹⁷⁵ Careful blocking in order to minimize normal tissue exposure while maintaining tumor coverage is critical for optimal outcomes. In addition, patient-related conditions (ie, inflammatory bowel disease, collagen-vascular disease, multiple abdominal/pelvic surgeries,

history of pelvic inflammatory disease, diabetes) influence determination of radiation dose and volumes.

For most patients, it is generally accepted that the whole pelvis can tolerate an EBRT dose of 45 to 50 Gy. Gross disease in the parametria or unresected nodes may be treated with tightly contoured external-beam boosts to 65 to 70 Gy. Care should be taken to minimize dose to uninvolved and out-of-field external genitalia when possible but without compromising coverage of the PTV. Brachytherapy to reach 70–80 Gy EQD2 total dose is generally recommended, with lower dose ranges of 70–75 Gy considered in the lower vagina, and 75–80 Gy total dose in the upper vagina. For bulky or poorly responsive disease in the upper vagina, dose escalation ≤ 85 Gy may be considered. Some clinicians treat the entire vaginal surface to 60 Gy cumulative dose, followed by tumor boost to 70–80 Gy, while others treat only the lesion plus a margin. Careful attention should be paid to dose tolerance of vaginal mucosa. The distal vagina has a lower tolerance than the proximal vagina. Brachytherapy planning is highly individualized and should incorporate information from pre-EBRT and pre-brachytherapy imaging (preferably MRI), clinical drawings, fiducials, and exam findings. Careful understanding of vaginal anatomy and distribution of disease is required. Image-guided brachytherapy is strongly encouraged, with adaptation of volumes as the tumor responds. Tumor extent, location, and response must all be considered when choosing the brachytherapy approach.

Normal tissue dose constraint guidelines for vaginal cancer have been added to the NCCN Guidelines for Vaginal Cancer. Although the suggested dose constraints are provided in the Guidelines, the NCCN Panel recommends that clinicians must balance the risks of normal tissue toxicity with tumor control.



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

Drug Reactions

Virtually all drugs have the potential to cause adverse reactions, either during or after infusion.¹⁷⁶ In vaginal cancer treatment, drugs that more commonly cause adverse reactions include carboplatin, cisplatin, docetaxel, liposomal doxorubicin, and paclitaxel. Most of these drug reactions are mild infusion reactions (ie, skin reactions, cardiovascular reactions, respiratory or throat tightness), but more severe allergic reactions (ie, life-threatening anaphylaxis) can occur.^{177,178} In addition, patients can have severe infusion reactions and mild allergic reactions. Infusion reactions are more common with paclitaxel.¹⁷⁹ Allergic reactions (ie, true drug allergies) are more common with platinum agents (eg, cisplatin).^{179,180} Management of drug reactions is discussed in the [NCCN Guidelines for Ovarian Cancer](#).¹⁷⁹ Importantly, patients who experienced severe life-threatening reactions should not receive the implicated agent again unless evaluated by an allergist or specialist in drug desensitization. If a mild allergic reaction previously occurred and it is appropriate to readminister the drug, a desensitization regimen is recommended even if the symptoms have resolved. Various desensitization regimens have been published and should be followed.¹⁸⁰⁻¹⁸² Patients must be desensitized with each infusion if they have had a previous reaction. Almost all patients can be desensitized.¹⁷⁶ To maximize safety, patients should be desensitized in the intensive care unit.¹⁷⁶

Gynecologic Survivorship

Treatment for gynecologic cancer typically involves surgery, chemotherapy, hormone therapy, RT, and/or immunotherapy, which may cause acute, short term, and long-term toxicities. Surgical approaches may be extensive and cause adhesions to form, which in turn may cause pain and contribute to the development of small bowel obstruction, urinary or GI complications (eg, incontinence, diarrhea), pelvic floor dysfunction (manifested by a variety of urinary, bowel, and/or sexual effects), and

lymphedema. Chemotherapy agents vary, though commonly used regimens may pose a significant risk of neurotoxicity, cardiac toxicity, cognitive dysfunction, and the development of hematologic cancers. Long-term estrogen deprivation may cause symptoms such as hot flashes, vaginal dryness, and bone loss. RT may cause long-term complications (eg, fibrosis, stenosis, vulvovaginal atrophy) and may predispose patients to subsequent cancers of the skin, subcutaneous tissue, and/or underlying organs that are proximal to the radiation field. Use of immunotherapy agents in gynecologic cancers is emerging, and to date, long-term effects of these treatments are unknown.

Following completion of treatment, all gynecologic cancer survivors should receive regular general medical care that focuses on managing chronic diseases (eg, depression, diabetes, hypertension), monitoring cardiovascular risk factors, receiving recommended vaccinations, and encouraging adoption of a healthy lifestyle (eg, promoting exercise, smoking cessation). To assess the late and long-term effects of gynecologic cancers, clinicians should comprehensively document the patient's history, including prior treatment history, and conduct a thorough physical examination followed by necessary imaging and/or laboratory testing. As most treatments for gynecologic cancers will cause sexual dysfunction, early menopause, and infertility, special attention to the resultant medical and psychosocial implications is needed. All patients, whether sexually active or not, should be asked about genitourinary symptoms, including vulvovaginal dryness. Post-radiation use of vaginal dilators and moisturizers is recommended. Psychosocial effects may include psychological (eg, depression, anxiety, fear of recurrence, altered body image), financial (eg, return to work, insurance concerns), and interpersonal (eg, relationships, sexuality, intimacy). Patients should be referred to appropriate specialty providers (eg, physical therapy, pelvic floor therapy, sexual therapy, psychotherapy) as needed, based on prior treatment history and assessed risk of developing late effects and/or



existing concerns. Communication and coordination with all clinicians involved in the care of survivors, including primary care clinicians, is critical. Providing survivors with a summary of their treatment and recommendations for follow-up is also recommended. To this end, the SGO has developed templates for gynecologic cancer-specific survivorship care plans to aid survivors and their clinicians in summarizing cancer history, treatments received, possible side effects, and recommended follow-up.

persistent infection and therefore prevent specific HPV-associated cancers, including vaginal cancer.^{8,183,184}

Best Supportive Care

Patients with refractory systemic cancer warrant a comprehensive coordinated approach involving hospice care, pain consultants, and emotional and spiritual support, individualized to the situation (see the [NCCN Guidelines for Palliative Care](#)).

Summary

In summary, vaginal cancer tends to be associated with older age (>60 years). The most common signs and symptoms of vaginal cancer include bleeding, discharge, and urine retention; in some cases, vaginal cancer is identified by rectal symptoms like constipation or blood in the stool. The primary technique to detect vaginal cancer is pelvic examination. Many of the recommendations for staging, treatment, and follow-up of primary vaginal cancer are derived from cervical cancer and they have generalizability to vaginal cancer due to similar tumor biology. If the diagnosis can be made in an early stage of vaginal cancer, then RT is the preferred recommendation, as well as surgery in select patients. EBRT, EBRT with brachytherapy, and CCRT with brachytherapy are recommended in the later stages of the disease. Preventive measures such as HPV vaccination, regular gynecologic examinations, and tests like Pap cytology and cervicography aid in prevention and early diagnosis of the disease.⁷ The hope is that immunization against HPV will prevent



References

1. Di Donato V, Bellati F, Fischetti M, et al. Vaginal cancer. Crit Rev Oncol Hematol 2012;81:286-295. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21571543>.
2. Siegel RL, Kratzer TB, Giaquinto AN, et al. Cancer statistics, 2025. CA Cancer J Clin 2025;75:10-45. Available at:
3. Matsuo K, Blake EA, Machida H, et al. Incidences and risk factors of metachronous vulvar, vaginal, and anal cancers after cervical cancer diagnosis. Gynecol Oncol 2018;150:501-508. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30054103>.
4. Alfonzo E, Holmberg E, Sparén P, et al. Risk of vaginal cancer among hysterectomised women with cervical intraepithelial neoplasia: a population-based national cohort study. Bjog 2020;127:448-454. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31769577>.
5. Nygard M, Hansen BT, Dillner J, et al. Targeting human papillomavirus to reduce the burden of cervical, vulvar and vaginal cancer and pre-invasive neoplasia: establishing the baseline for surveillance. PLoS One 2014;9:e88323. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24505474>.
6. Carter JS, Downs LS, Jr. Vulvar and vaginal cancer. Obstet Gynecol Clin North Am 2012;39:213-231. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22640712>.
7. Baral SK, Biswas P, Kaium MA, et al. A comprehensive discussion in vaginal cancer based on mechanisms, treatments, risk factors and prevention. Front Oncol 2022;12:883805. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/35924174>.
8. Chan JK, Berek JS. Impact of the human papilloma vaccine on cervical cancer. J Clin Oncol 2007;25:2975-2982. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17617529>.
9. Dugue PA, Rebolj M, Garred P, Lynge E. Immunosuppression and risk of cervical cancer. Expert Rev Anticancer Ther 2013;13:29-42. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23259425>.
10. Cervical Cancer Causes, Risk Factors, and Prevention: Patient Version. PDQ Cancer Information Summaries. Bethesda (MD): National Cancer Institute (US); 2002.
11. Hohn AK, Brambs CE, Hiller GGR, et al. 2020 WHO Classification of Female Genital Tumors. Geburtshilfe Frauenheilkd 2021;81:1145-1153. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/34629493>.
12. Krishnamurti U M-LS, Bell DA, et al. Protocol for the Examination of Specimens from Patients with Primary Carcinoma of the Uterine Cervix. College of American Pathologists 2020. Available at: <https://documents.cap.org/protocols/cp-gynecologic-uterinecervix-resection-20-5000.pdf>.
13. Darragh TM, Colgan TJ, Cox JT, et al. The lower anogenital squamous terminology standardization project for HPV-associated lesions: background and consensus recommendations from the College of American Pathologists and the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology. J Low Genit Tract Dis 2012;16:205-242. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22820980>.
14. Kesic V, Carcopino X, Preti M, et al. The European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO), the International Society for the Study of Vulvovaginal Disease (ISSVD), the European College for the Study of Vulval Disease (ECSVD), and the European Federation for Colposcopy (EFC) consensus statement on the management of vaginal intraepithelial neoplasia. J Low Genit Tract Dis 2023;27:131-145. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/36951985>.
15. Colombo N, Dubot C, Lorusso D, et al. Pembrolizumab for persistent, recurrent, or metastatic cervical cancer. N Engl J Med 2021;385:1856-1867. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/34534429>.
16. Chung HC, Ros W, Delord JP, et al. Efficacy and Safety of Pembrolizumab in Previously Treated Advanced Cervical Cancer: Results From the Phase II KEYNOTE-158 Study. J Clin Oncol 2019;37:1470-1478. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30943124>.
17. Naumann RW, Hollebecque A, Meyer T, et al. Safety and efficacy of nivolumab monotherapy in recurrent or metastatic cervical, vaginal, or vulvar carcinoma: Results from the phase I/II CheckMate 358 trial. J Clin Oncol 2019;37:2825-2834. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31487218>.
18. Yoshimoto D, Taguchi A, Tanikawa M, et al. Recurrent cervical cancer with PD-L1 amplification treated with nivolumab: A case enrolled in the BELIEVE trial. J Obstet Gynaecol Res 2022;48:2010-2014. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/35373441>.
19. Santin AD, Deng W, Frumovitz M, et al. Phase II evaluation of nivolumab in the treatment of persistent or recurrent cervical cancer (NCT02257528/NRG-GY002). Gynecol Oncol 2020;157:161-166. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31924334>.



20. FDA approves nivolumab and hyaluronidase-nvhy for subcutaneous injection. 2024. Available at: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/fda-approves-nivolumab-and-hyaluronidase-nvhy-subcutaneous-injection>. Accessed 1/24/2025.

21. Marabelle A, Le DT, Ascierto PA, et al. Efficacy of pembrolizumab in patients with noncolorectal high microsatellite instability/mismatch repair-deficient cancer: Results from the phase II KEYNOTE-158 study. *J Clin Oncol* 2020;38:1-10. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31682550>.

22. Marabelle A, Fakih M, Lopez J, et al. Association of tumour mutational burden with outcomes in patients with advanced solid tumours treated with pembrolizumab: prospective biomarker analysis of the multicohort, open-label, phase 2 KEYNOTE-158 study. *Lancet Oncol* 2020;21:1353-1365. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32919526>.

23. Doebele RC, Drilon A, Paz-Ares L, et al. Entrectinib in patients with advanced or metastatic NTRK fusion-positive solid tumours: integrated analysis of three phase 1-2 trials. *Lancet Oncol* 2020;21:271-282. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31838007>.

24. Demetri GD, De Braud F, Drilon A, et al. Updated integrated analysis of the efficacy and safety of entrectinib in patients with NTRK fusion-positive solid tumors. *Clin Cancer Res* 2022;28:1302-1312. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/35144967>.

25. Drilon A, Laetsch TW, Kummar S, et al. Efficacy of larotrectinib in TRK fusion-positive cancers in adults and children. *N Engl J Med* 2018;378:731-739. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29466156>.

26. Hong DS, DuBois SG, Kummar S, et al. Larotrectinib in patients with TRK fusion-positive solid tumours: a pooled analysis of three phase 1/2 clinical trials. *Lancet Oncol* 2020;21:531-540. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32105622>.

27. Marcus L, Donoghue M, Aungst S, et al. FDA approval summary: Entrectinib for the treatment of NTRK gene fusion solid tumors. *Clin Cancer Res* 2021;27:928-932. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32967940>.

28. Scott LJ. Larotrectinib: First global approval. *Drugs* 2019;79:201-206. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30635837>.

29. Solomon BJ, Drilon A, Lin JJ, et al. 1372P Repotrectinib in patients (pts) with NTRK fusion-positive (NTRK+) advanced solid tumors, including

NSCLC: Update from the phase I/II TRIDENT-1 trial. *Annals of Oncology* 2023;34:S787-S788. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annonc.2023.09.2405>.

30. FDA grants accelerated approval to repotrectinib for adult and pediatric patients with NTRK gene fusion-positive solid tumors. 2024. Available at: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/fda-grants-accelerated-approval-repotrectinib-adult-and-pediatric-patients-ntrk-gene-fusion-positive>. Accessed 1/24/2025.

31. Yan M, Schwaederle M, Arguello D, et al. HER2 expression status in diverse cancers: review of results from 37,992 patients. *Cancer Metastasis Rev* 2015;34:157-164. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25712293>.

32. Chavez-Blanco A, Perez-Sanchez V, Gonzalez-Fierro A, et al. HER2 expression in cervical cancer as a potential therapeutic target. *BMC Cancer* 2004;4:59. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15341668>.

33. Itkin B, Garcia A, Straminsky S, et al. Prevalence of HER2 overexpression and amplification in cervical cancer: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLoS One* 2021;16:e0257976. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/34591928>.

34. Cai ZL, Yang HT, Huang T, et al. Efficacy and safety of trastuzumab deruxtecan in patients with solid tumors: a systematic review and meta-analysis of 3 randomized controlled trials. *Am J Cancer Res* 2023;13:3266-3274. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/37693138>.

35. Meric-Bernstam F, Makker V, Oaknin A, et al. Efficacy and safety of trastuzumab deruxtecan in patients with HER2-expressing solid tumors: Primary results from the DESTINY-PanTumor02 phase II trial. *J Clin Oncol* 2024;42:47-58. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/37870536>.

36. Subbiah V, Wolf J, Konda B, et al. Tumour-agnostic efficacy and safety of selpercatinib in patients with RET fusion-positive solid tumours other than lung or thyroid tumours (LIBRETTO-001): a phase 1/2, open-label, basket trial. *Lancet Oncol* 2022;23:1261-1273. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/36108661>.

37. Duke ES, Bradford D, Marcovitz M, et al. FDA approval summary: Selpercatinib for the treatment of advanced RET fusion-positive solid



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

tumors. Clin Cancer Res 2023;29:3573-3578. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/37265412>.

38. Hellman K, Lindquist D, Ranheim C, et al. Human papillomavirus, p16(INK4A), and Ki-67 in relation to clinicopathological variables and survival in primary carcinoma of the vagina. Br J Cancer 2014;110:1561-1570. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24525695>.

39. Feldbaum VM, Flowers LC, Oprea-Ilie GM. Improved survival in p16-positive vaginal cancers across all tumor stages but no correlation with MIB-1. American Journal of Clinical Pathology 2014;142:664-669. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1309/AJCPMG0XIF7PEISO>.

40. Egger EK, Condic M, Ralser DJ, et al. The role of P16, P53, Ki-67 and PD-L1 immunostaining in primary vaginal cancer. Cancers (Basel) 2023;15. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/36831389>.

41. Rasmussen CL, Bertoli HK, Sand FL, et al. The prognostic significance of HPV, p16, and p53 protein expression in vaginal cancer: A systematic review. Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand 2021;100:2144-2156. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/34546565>.

42. Hay CM, Lachance JA, Lucas FL, et al. Biomarkers p16, human papillomavirus and p53 predict recurrence and survival in early stage squamous cell carcinoma of the vulva. J Low Genit Tract Dis 2016;20:252-256. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26855143>.

43. Hantschmann P, Sterzer S, Jeschke U, Friese K. P53 expression in vulvar carcinoma, vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia, squamous cell hyperplasia and lichen sclerosus. Anticancer Res 2005;25:1739-1745. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16033093>.

44. Koyamatsu Y, Yokoyama M, Nakao Y, et al. A comparative analysis of human papillomavirus types 16 and 18 and expression of p53 gene and Ki-67 in cervical, vaginal, and vulvar carcinomas. Gynecol Oncol 2003;90:547-551. Available at:

45. Salani R, Khanna N, Frimer M, et al. An update on post-treatment surveillance and diagnosis of recurrence in women with gynecologic malignancies: Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) recommendations. Gynecol Oncol 2017;146:3-10. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28372871>.

46. Kilcoyne A, Gottumukkala RV, Kang SK, et al. ACR Appropriateness Criteria® Staging and Follow-up of Primary Vaginal Cancer. J Am Coll Radiol 2021;18:S442-s455. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/34794599>.

47. Bodurka-Bervers D, Morris M, Eifel PJ, et al. Posttherapy surveillance of women with cervical cancer: an outcomes analysis. Gynecol Oncol 2000;78:187-193. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10926801>.

48. Morice P, Deyrolle C, Rey A, et al. Value of routine follow-up procedures for patients with stage I/II cervical cancer treated with combined surgery-radiation therapy. Ann Oncol 2004;15:218-223. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/14760112>.

49. Elit L, Fyles AW, Devries MC, et al. Follow-up for women after treatment for cervical cancer: a systematic review. Gynecol Oncol 2009;114:528-535. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19560188>.

50. Chung HH, Jo H, Kang WJ, et al. Clinical impact of integrated PET/CT on the management of suspected cervical cancer recurrence. Gynecol Oncol 2007;104:529-534. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17049971>.

51. Chaturvedi AK, Kleiner RA, Hildesheim A, et al. Second cancers after squamous cell carcinoma and adenocarcinoma of the cervix. J Clin Oncol 2009;27:967-973. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19114696>.

52. Chaturvedi AK, Engels EA, Gilbert ES, et al. Second cancers among 104,760 survivors of cervical cancer: evaluation of long-term risk. J Natl Cancer Inst 2007;99:1634-1643. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17971527>.

53. Kumar S, Shah JP, Bryant CS, et al. Radiation-associated endometrial cancer. Obstet Gynecol 2009;113:319-325. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19155901>.

54. Kim JS, Kim JS, Kim SY, et al. Hyperfractionated radiotherapy with concurrent chemotherapy for para-aortic lymph node recurrence in carcinoma of the cervix. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 2003;55:1247-1253. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12654434>.

55. Chung YL, Jian JJ, Cheng SH, et al. Extended-field radiotherapy and high-dose-rate brachytherapy with concurrent and adjuvant cisplatin-based chemotherapy for locally advanced cervical cancer: a phase I/II study. Gynecol Oncol 2005;97:126-135. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15790448>.

56. Marnitz S, Dowdy S, Lanowska M, et al. Exenterations 60 years after first description: results of a survey among US and German Gynecologic



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

Oncology Centers. Int J Gynecol Cancer 2009;19:974-977. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19574795>.

57. Berek JS, Howe C, Lagasse LD, Hacker NF. Pelvic exenteration for recurrent gynecologic malignancy: survival and morbidity analysis of the 45-year experience at UCLA. Gynecol Oncol 2005;99:153-159. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16054678>.

58. Goldberg GL, Sukumvanich P, Einstein MH, et al. Total pelvic exenteration: the Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center Experience (1987 to 2003). Gynecol Oncol 2006;101:261-268. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16426668>.

59. Morley GW, Hopkins MP, Lindenauer SM, Roberts JA. Pelvic exenteration, University of Michigan: 100 patients at 5 years. Obstet Gynecol 1989;74:934-943. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2586960>.

60. Fleisch MC, Pantke P, Beckmann MW, et al. Predictors for long-term survival after interdisciplinary salvage surgery for advanced or recurrent gynecologic cancers. J Surg Oncol 2007;95:476-484. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17192947>.

61. Tran PT, Su Z, Hara W, et al. Long-term survivors using intraoperative radiotherapy for recurrent gynecologic malignancies. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 2007;69:504-511. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17560736>.

62. Rutledge FN, Smith JP, Wharton JT, O'Quinn AG. Pelvic exenteration: analysis of 296 patients. Am J Obstet Gynecol 1977;129:881-892. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/930972>.

63. Symmonds RE, Pratt JH, Webb MJ. Exenterative operations: experience with 198 patients. Am J Obstet Gynecol 1975;121:907-918. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/1115180>.

64. Soper JT, Secord AA, Havrilesky LJ, et al. Comparison of gracilis and rectus abdominis myocutaneous flap neovaginal reconstruction performed during radical pelvic surgery: flap-specific morbidity. Int J Gynecol Cancer 2007;17:298-303. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17291272>.

65. Mirhashemi R, Averette HE, Lambrou N, et al. Vaginal reconstruction at the time of pelvic exenteration: a surgical and psychosexual analysis of techniques. Gynecol Oncol 2002;87:39-45. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12468340>.

66. Turns D. Psychosocial issues: pelvic exenterative surgery. J Surg Oncol 2001;76:224-236. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11276026>.

67. Im JH, Yoon HI, Kim S, et al. Tailored radiotherapeutic strategies for disseminated uterine cervical cancer patients. Radiat Oncol 2015;10:77. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25884833>.

68. Kim MK, Kim MA, Kim JW, et al. Loop electrosurgical excision procedure findings for identification of patients with early-stage cervical cancer suitable for less radical surgery. Int J Gynecol Cancer 2012;22:1214-1219. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22801033>.

69. Hoppenot C, Littell RD, DeEulis T, Hartenbach EM. Top ten tips palliative care clinicians should know about caring for patients with cervical cancer. J Palliat Med 2021;24:438-442. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/33513069>.

70. Smith SC, Koh WJ. Palliative radiation therapy for gynaecological malignancies. Best Pract Res Clin Obstet Gynaecol 2001;15:265-278. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11358401>.

71. Spanos WJ, Jr., Perez CA, Marcus S, et al. Effect of rest interval on tumor and normal tissue response—a report of phase III study of accelerated split course palliative radiation for advanced pelvic malignancies (RTOG-8502). Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 1993;25:399-403. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7679668>.

72. Lutz ST, Chow EL, Hartsell WF, Konski AA. A review of hypofractionated palliative radiotherapy. Cancer 2007;109:1462-1470. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17330854>.

73. Rose PG, Ali S, Watkins E, et al. Long-term follow-up of a randomized trial comparing concurrent single agent cisplatin, cisplatin-based combination chemotherapy, or hydroxyurea during pelvic irradiation for locally advanced cervical cancer: a Gynecologic Oncology Group Study. J Clin Oncol 2007;25:2804-2810. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17502627>.

74. Viswanathan AN, Deavers MT, Jhingran A, et al. Small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the cervix: outcome and patterns of recurrence. Gynecol Oncol 2004;93:27-33. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15047210>.

75. Stehman FB, Ali S, Keys HM, et al. Radiation therapy with or without weekly cisplatin for bulky stage 1B cervical carcinoma: follow-up of a



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

Gynecologic Oncology Group trial. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2007;197:1-6.

Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17980189>.

76. Nam EJ, Lee M, Yim GW, et al. Comparison of carboplatin- and cisplatin-based concurrent chemoradiotherapy in locally advanced cervical cancer patients with morbidity risks. Oncologist 2013;18:843-849.

Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23821328>.

77. Lorvidhaya V, Chitapanarux I, Sangruchi S, et al. Concurrent mitomycin C, 5-fluorouracil, and radiotherapy in the treatment of locally advanced carcinoma of the cervix: a randomized trial. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 2003;55:1226-1232. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12654431>.

78. Pattaranutaporn P, Thirapakawong C, Chansilpa Y, et al. Phase II study of concurrent gemcitabine and radiotherapy in locally advanced stage IIIB cervical carcinoma. Gynecol Oncol 2001;81:404-407. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11371129>.

79. Candelaria M, Garcia-Arias A, Cetina L, Duenas-Gonzalez A. Radiosensitizers in cervical cancer. Cisplatin and beyond. Radiat Oncol 2006;1:15. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16722549>.

80. Christie DR, Bull CA, Gebiski V, Langlands AO. Concurrent 5-fluorouracil, mitomycin C and irradiation in locally advanced cervix cancer. Radiother Oncol 1995;37:181-189. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8746586>.

81. Rakovitch E, Fyles AW, Pintilie M, Leung PM. Role of mitomycin C in the development of late bowel toxicity following chemoradiation for locally advanced carcinoma of the cervix. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 1997;38:979-987. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9276362>.

82. Verma AK, Arya AK, Kumar M, et al. Weekly cisplatin or gemcitabine concomitant with radiation in the management of locally advanced carcinoma cervix: results from an observational study. J Gynecol Oncol 2009;20:221-226. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20041098>.

83. Cerrotta A, Gardan G, Cavina R, et al. Concurrent radiotherapy and weekly paclitaxel for locally advanced or recurrent squamous cell carcinoma of the uterine cervix. A pilot study with intensification of dose. Eur J Gynaecol Oncol 2002;23:115-119. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12013105>.

84. Chemoradiotherapy for Cervical Cancer Meta-Analysis C. Reducing uncertainties about the effects of chemoradiotherapy for cervical cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis of individual patient data from 18 randomized trials. J Clin Oncol 2008;26:5802-5812. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19001332>.

85. King M, McConkey C, Latief TN, et al. Improved survival after concurrent weekly cisplatin and radiotherapy for cervical carcinoma with assessment of acute and late side-effects. Clin Oncol (R Coll Radiol) 2006;18:38-45. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16477918>.

86. Tan LT, Zahra M. Long-term survival and late toxicity after chemoradiotherapy for cervical cancer--the Addenbrooke's experience. Clin Oncol (R Coll Radiol) 2008;20:358-364. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18395427>.

87. Monk BJ, Colombo N, Tewari KS, et al. First-line pembrolizumab + chemotherapy versus placebo + chemotherapy for persistent, recurrent, or metastatic cervical cancer: Final overall survival results of KEYNOTE-826. J Clin Oncol 2023;41:5505-5511. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/37910822>.

88. Tewari KS, Sill MW, Penson RT, et al. Bevacizumab for advanced cervical cancer: final overall survival and adverse event analysis of a randomised, controlled, open-label, phase 3 trial (Gynecologic Oncology Group 240). Lancet 2017;390:1654-1663. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28756902>.

89. Penson RT, Huang HQ, Wenzel LB, et al. Bevacizumab for advanced cervical cancer: patient-reported outcomes of a randomised, phase 3 trial (NRG Oncology-Gynecologic Oncology Group protocol 240). Lancet Oncol 2015;16:301-311. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25638326>.

90. Rosen VM, Guerra I, McCormack M, et al. Systematic review and network meta-analysis of bevacizumab plus first-line topotecan-paclitaxel or cisplatin-paclitaxel versus non-bevacizumab-containing therapies in persistent, recurrent, or metastatic cervical cancer. Int J Gynecol Cancer 2017;27:1237-1246. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28448304>.

91. Kitagawa R, Katsumata N, Shibata T, et al. Paclitaxel plus carboplatin versus paclitaxel plus cisplatin in metastatic or recurrent cervical cancer: The open-label randomized phase III trial JCOG0505. J Clin Oncol



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

2015;33:2129-2135. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25732161>.

92. Moore KN, Herzog TJ, Lewin S, et al. A comparison of cisplatin/paclitaxel and carboplatin/paclitaxel in stage IVB, recurrent or persistent cervical cancer. *Gynecol Oncol* 2007;105:299-303. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17303230>.

93. Lorusso D, Petrelli F, Coinu A, et al. A systematic review comparing cisplatin and carboplatin plus paclitaxel-based chemotherapy for recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer. *Gynecol Oncol* 2014;133:117-123. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24486604>.

94. Thigpen T, Shingleton H, Homesley H, et al. Cis-platinum in treatment of advanced or recurrent squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix: a phase II study of the Gynecologic Oncology Group. *Cancer* 1981;48:899-903. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7196794>.

95. Thigpen JT, Blessing JA, DiSaia PJ, et al. A randomized comparison of a rapid versus prolonged (24 hr) infusion of cisplatin in therapy of squamous cell carcinoma of the uterine cervix: a Gynecologic Oncology Group study. *Gynecol Oncol* 1989;32:198-202. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2910782>.

96. Pectasides D, Kamposioras K, Papaxoinis G, Pectasides E. Chemotherapy for recurrent cervical cancer. *Cancer Treat Rev* 2008;34:603-613. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18657909>.

97. Moore DH, Blessing JA, McQuellon RP, et al. Phase III study of cisplatin with or without paclitaxel in stage IVB, recurrent, or persistent squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix: a gynecologic oncology group study. *J Clin Oncol* 2004;22:3113-3119. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15284262>.

98. McGuire WP, 3rd, Arseneau J, Blessing JA, et al. A randomized comparative trial of carboplatin and iproplatin in advanced squamous carcinoma of the uterine cervix: a Gynecologic Oncology Group study. *J Clin Oncol* 1989;7:1462-1468. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2674333>.

99. Weiss GR, Green S, Hannigan EV, et al. A phase II trial of carboplatin for recurrent or metastatic squamous carcinoma of the uterine cervix: a Southwest Oncology Group study. *Gynecol Oncol* 1990;39:332-336. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2258080>.

100. Kudelka AP, Winn R, Edwards CL, et al. An update of a phase II study of paclitaxel in advanced or recurrent squamous cell cancer of the cervix. *Anticancer Drugs* 1997;8:657-661. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9311440>.

101. McGuire WP, Blessing JA, Moore D, et al. Paclitaxel has moderate activity in squamous cervix cancer. A Gynecologic Oncology Group study. *J Clin Oncol* 1996;14:792-795. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8622025>.

102. Tinker AV, Bhagat K, Swenerton KD, Hoskins PJ. Carboplatin and paclitaxel for advanced and recurrent cervical carcinoma: the British Columbia Cancer Agency experience. *Gynecol Oncol* 2005;98:54-58. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15904950>.

103. Long HJ, 3rd, Bundy BN, Grendys EC, Jr., et al. Randomized phase III trial of cisplatin with or without topotecan in carcinoma of the uterine cervix: a Gynecologic Oncology Group Study. *J Clin Oncol* 2005;23:4626-4633. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15911865>.

104. Moore DH. Chemotherapy for advanced, recurrent, and metastatic cervical cancer. *J Natl Compr Canc Netw* 2008;6:53-57. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18267059>.

105. Tao X, Hu W, Ramirez PT, Kavanagh JJ. Chemotherapy for recurrent and metastatic cervical cancer. *Gynecol Oncol* 2008;110:S67-71. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18533239>.

106. Monk BJ, Sill MW, McMeekin DS, et al. Phase III trial of four cisplatin-containing doublet combinations in stage IVB, recurrent, or persistent cervical carcinoma: a Gynecologic Oncology Group study. *J Clin Oncol* 2009;27:4649-4655. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19720909>.

107. Zigelboim I, Wright JD, Gao F, et al. Multicenter phase II trial of topotecan, cisplatin and bevacizumab for recurrent or persistent cervical cancer. *Gynecol Oncol* 2013;130:64-68. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23591400>.

108. Frenel JS, Le Tourneau C, O'Neil B, et al. Safety and efficacy of pembrolizumab in advanced, programmed death ligand 1-positive cervical cancer: Results from the phase Ib KEYNOTE-028 trial. *J Clin Oncol* 2017;35:4035-4041. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29095678>.

109. Maio M, Ascierto PA, Manzyuk L, et al. Pembrolizumab in microsatellite instability high or mismatch repair deficient cancers: updated



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

analysis from the phase II KEYNOTE-158 study. *Ann Oncol* 2022;33:929-938. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/35680043>.

110. Alberts DS, Blessing JA, Landrum LM, et al. Phase II trial of nab-paclitaxel in the treatment of recurrent or persistent advanced cervix cancer: A gynecologic oncology group study. *Gynecol Oncol* 2012;127:451-455. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22986144>.

111. Garcia AA, Blessing JA, Vaccarello L, et al. Phase II clinical trial of docetaxel in refractory squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix: a Gynecologic Oncology Group Study. *Am J Clin Oncol* 2007;30:428-431. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17762444>.

112. Look KY, Blessing JA, Gallup DG, Lentz SS. A phase II trial of 5-fluorouracil and high-dose leucovorin in patients with recurrent squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix: a Gynecologic Oncology Group study. *Am J Clin Oncol* 1996;19:439-441. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8823469>.

113. Schilder RJ, Blessing J, Cohn DE. Evaluation of gemcitabine in previously treated patients with non-squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix: a phase II study of the Gynecologic Oncology Group. *Gynecol Oncol* 2005;96:103-107. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15589587>.

114. Coleman RE, Harper PG, Gallagher C, et al. A phase II study of ifosfamide in advanced and relapsed carcinoma of the cervix. *Cancer Chemother Pharmacol* 1986;18:280-283. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/3802384>.

115. Sutton GP, Blessing JA, McGuire WP, et al. Phase II trial of ifosfamide and mesna in patients with advanced or recurrent squamous carcinoma of the cervix who had never received chemotherapy: a Gynecologic Oncology Group study. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 1993;168:805-807. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8456884>.

116. Verschraegen CF, Levy T, Kudelka AP, et al. Phase II study of irinotecan in prior chemotherapy-treated squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix. *J Clin Oncol* 1997;15:625-631. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9053486>.

117. Wagenaar HC, Pecorelli S, Mangioni C, et al. Phase II study of mitomycin-C and cisplatin in disseminated, squamous cell carcinoma of the uterine cervix. A European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) Gynecological Cancer Group study. *Eur J Cancer*

2001;37:1624-1628. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11527687>.

118. Miller DS, Blessing JA, Bodurka DC, et al. Evaluation of pemetrexed (Alimta, LY231514) as second line chemotherapy in persistent or recurrent carcinoma of the cervix: a phase II study of the Gynecologic Oncology Group. *Gynecol Oncol* 2008;110:65-70. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18455781>.

119. Bookman MA, Blessing JA, Hanjani P, et al. Topotecan in squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix: A Phase II study of the Gynecologic Oncology Group. *Gynecol Oncol* 2000;77:446-449. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10831357>.

120. Muddersbach LI, Blessing JA, Levenback C, Moore JL, Jr. A Phase II study of topotecan in patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix: a gynecologic oncology group study. *Gynecol Oncol* 2001;81:213-215. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11354055>.

121. Muggia FM, Blessing JA, Method M, et al. Evaluation of vinorelbine in persistent or recurrent squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix: a Gynecologic Oncology Group study. *Gynecol Oncol* 2004;92:639-643. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/14766259>.

122. Coleman RL, Lorusso D, Gennigens C, et al. Efficacy and safety of tisotumab vedotin in previously treated recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer (innovaTV 204/GOG-3023/ENGOT-cx6): a multicentre, open-label, single-arm, phase 2 study. *Lancet Oncol* 2021;22:609-619. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/33845034>.

123. Markham A. Tisotumab Vedotin: First Approval. *Drugs* 2021;81:2141-2147. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/34748188>.

124. Vergote IB, Gonzalez Martin A, Fujiwara K, et al. LBA9 innovaTV 301/ENGOT-cx12/GOG-3057: A global, randomized, open-label, phase III study of tisotumab vedotin vs investigator's choice of chemotherapy in 2L or 3L recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer. *Annals of Oncology* 2023;34:S1276-S1277. Available at: [https://www.annalsofoncology.org/article/S0923-7534\(23\)04173-X/fulltext](https://www.annalsofoncology.org/article/S0923-7534(23)04173-X/fulltext).

125. Tewari KS, Monk BJ, Vergote I, et al. Survival with cemiplimab in recurrent cervical cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2022;386:544-555. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/35139273>.

126. Oaknin A, Monk BJ, Vergote I, et al. EMPOWER CERVICAL-1: Effects of cemiplimab versus chemotherapy on patient-reported quality of life, functioning and symptoms among women with recurrent cervical



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

cancer. Eur J Cancer 2022;174:299-309. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/35922251>.

127. Lee LJ, Jhingran A, Kidd E, et al. ACR appropriateness Criteria management of vaginal cancer. Oncology (Williston Park) 2013;27:1166-1173. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24575547>.

128. Herrera FG, Prior JO. The role of PET/CT in cervical cancer. Front Oncol 2013;3:34. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23549376>.

129. Frank SJ, Jhingran A, Levenback C, Eifel PJ. Definitive radiation therapy for squamous cell carcinoma of the vagina. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 2005;62:138-147. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15850914>.

130. Higginson DS, Morris DE, Jones EL, et al. Stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT): Technological innovation and application in gynecologic oncology. Gynecol Oncol 2011;120:404-412. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21194733>.

131. Choi CW, Cho CK, Yoo SY, et al. Image-guided stereotactic body radiation therapy in patients with isolated para-aortic lymph node metastases from uterine cervical and corpus cancer. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 2009;74:147-153. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18990511>.

132. Schmid MP, Fokdal L, Westerveld H, et al. Recommendations from gynaecological (GYN) GEC-ESTRO working group - ACROP: Target concept for image guided adaptive brachytherapy in primary vaginal cancer. Radiother Oncol 2020;145:36-44. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31874348>.

133. Kamrava M, Leung E, Bachand F, et al. GEC-ESTRO (ACROP)-ABS-CBG Consensus Brachytherapy Target Definition Guidelines for Recurrent Endometrial and Cervical Tumors in the Vagina. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 2023;115:654-663. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/36191741>.

134. Potter R, Tanderup K, Schmid MP, et al. MRI-guided adaptive brachytherapy in locally advanced cervical cancer (EMBRACE-I): a multicentre prospective cohort study. Lancet Oncol 2021;22:538-547. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/33794207>.

135. Petric P, Lindegaard JC, Sturdza A, et al. Results of image guided brachytherapy for stage IB cervical cancer in the RetroEMBRACE study.

Radiother Oncol 2021;157:24-31. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/33476724>.

136. Potter R, Georg P, Dimopoulos JC, et al. Clinical outcome of protocol based image (MRI) guided adaptive brachytherapy combined with 3D conformal radiotherapy with or without chemotherapy in patients with locally advanced cervical cancer. Radiother Oncol 2011;100:116-123. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21821305>.

137. Haie-Meder C, Potter R, Van Limbergen E, et al. Recommendations from Gynaecological (GYN) GEC-ESTRO Working Group (I): concepts and terms in 3D image based 3D treatment planning in cervix cancer brachytherapy with emphasis on MRI assessment of GTV and CTV. Radiother Oncol 2005;74:235-245. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15763303>.

138. Yoshida K, Jastaniyah N, Sturdza A, et al. Assessment of parametrial response by growth pattern in patients with International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics stage IIB and IIIB cervical cancer: Analysis of patients from a prospective, multicenter trial (EMBRACE). Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 2015;93:788-796. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26530747>.

139. Viswanathan AN, Erickson BA. Three-dimensional imaging in gynecologic brachytherapy: a survey of the American Brachytherapy Society. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 2010;76:104-109. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19619956>.

140. Hallock A, Surry K, Batchelar D, et al. An early report on outcomes from computed tomographic-based high-dose-rate brachytherapy for locally advanced cervix cancer: A single institution experience. Pract Radiat Oncol 2011;1:173-181. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24673947>.

141. Orton A, Boothe D, Williams N, et al. Brachytherapy improves survival in primary vaginal cancer. Gynecol Oncol 2016;141:501-506. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27036631>.

142. Kucera H, Mock U, Knocke TH, et al. Radiotherapy alone for invasive vaginal cancer: outcome with intracavitary high dose rate brachytherapy versus conventional low dose rate brachytherapy. Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand 2001;80:355-360. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11264612>.

143. Perez CA, Korba A, Sharma S. Dosimetric considerations in irradiation of carcinoma of the vagina. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

1977;2:639-649. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/408307>.

144. Beriwal S, Demanes DJ, Erickson B, et al. American Brachytherapy Society consensus guidelines for interstitial brachytherapy for vaginal cancer. *Brachytherapy* 2012;11:68-75. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22265440>.

145. Dimopoulos JC, Schmid MP, Fidarova E, et al. Treatment of locally advanced vaginal cancer with radiochemotherapy and magnetic resonance image-guided adaptive brachytherapy: dose-volume parameters and first clinical results. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2012;82:1880-1888. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21868174>.

146. Ferrigno R, Nishimoto IN, Novaes PE, et al. Comparison of low and high dose rate brachytherapy in the treatment of uterine cervix cancer. Retrospective analysis of two sequential series. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2005;62:1108-1116. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15990016>.

147. Potter R, Tanderup K, Kirisits C, et al. The EMBRACE II study: The outcome and prospect of two decades of evolution within the GEC-ESTRO GYN working group and the EMBRACE studies. *Clin Transl Radiat Oncol* 2018;9:48-60. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29594251>.

148. Yang J, Delara R, Magrina J, et al. Management and outcomes of primary vaginal Cancer. *Gynecol Oncol* 2020;159:456-463. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32972784>.

149. Lim K, Small W, Jr., Portelance L, et al. Consensus guidelines for delineation of clinical target volume for intensity-modulated pelvic radiotherapy for the definitive treatment of cervix cancer. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2011;79:348-355. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20472347>.

150. Loiselle C, Koh WJ. The emerging use of IMRT for treatment of cervical cancer. *J Natl Compr Canc Netw* 2010;8:1425-1434. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21147905>.

151. Beriwal S, Gan GN, Heron DE, et al. Early clinical outcome with concurrent chemotherapy and extended-field, intensity-modulated radiotherapy for cervical cancer. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2007;68:166-171. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17321070>.

152. Chen MF, Tseng CJ, Tseng CC, et al. Clinical outcome in posthysterectomy cervical cancer patients treated with concurrent Cisplatin and intensity-modulated pelvic radiotherapy: comparison with conventional radiotherapy. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2007;67:1438-1444. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17394944>.

153. Chen MF, Tseng CJ, Tseng CC, et al. Adjuvant concurrent chemoradiotherapy with intensity-modulated pelvic radiotherapy after surgery for high-risk, early stage cervical cancer patients. *Cancer J* 2008;14:200-206. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18536561>.

154. Salama JK, Mundt AJ, Roeske J, Mehta N. Preliminary outcome and toxicity report of extended-field, intensity-modulated radiation therapy for gynecologic malignancies. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2006;65:1170-1176. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16730136>.

155. Small W, Jr., Mell LK, Anderson P, et al. Consensus guidelines for delineation of clinical target volume for intensity-modulated pelvic radiotherapy in postoperative treatment of endometrial and cervical cancer. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2008;71:428-434. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18037584>.

156. Erpolat OP, Alco G, Caglar HB, et al. Comparison of hematologic toxicity between 3DCRT and IMRT planning in cervical cancer patients after concurrent chemoradiotherapy: a national multi-center study. *Eur J Gynaecol Oncol* 2014;35:62-66. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24654465>.

157. Verma J, Sulman EP, Jhingran A, et al. Dosimetric predictors of duodenal toxicity after intensity modulated radiation therapy for treatment of the para-aortic nodes in gynecologic cancer. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2014;88:357-362. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24411609>.

158. Mell LK, Sirak I, Wei L, et al. Bone marrow-sparing intensity modulated radiation therapy with concurrent cisplatin for stage IB-IVA cervical cancer: An international multicenter phase II clinical trial (INTERTECC-2). *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2017;97:536-545. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28126303>.

159. Fyles A, Keane TJ, Barton M, Simm J. The effect of treatment duration in the local control of cervix cancer. *Radiother Oncol* 1992;25:273-279. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/1480773>.



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2025

Vaginal Cancer

160. Girinsky T, Rey A, Roche B, et al. Overall treatment time in advanced cervical carcinomas: a critical parameter in treatment outcome. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 1993;27:1051-1056. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8262826>.

161. Lanciano RM, Pajak TF, Martz K, Hanks GE. The influence of treatment time on outcome for squamous cell cancer of the uterine cervix treated with radiation: a patterns-of-care study. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 1993;25:391-397. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8436516>.

162. Perez CA, Grigsby PW, Castro-Vita H, Lockett MA. Carcinoma of the uterine cervix. I. Impact of prolongation of overall treatment time and timing of brachytherapy on outcome of radiation therapy. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 1995;32:1275-1288. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7635767>.

163. Petereit DG, Sarkaria JN, Chappell R, et al. The adverse effect of treatment prolongation in cervical carcinoma. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 1995;32:1301-1307. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7635769>.

164. Ren X, Fu Y, Liu Z, et al. Image-guided interstitial brachytherapy for recurrent cervical cancer after radiotherapy: A single institution experience. *Front Oncol* 2022;12:943703. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/35928866>.

165. Macchia G, Pezzulla D, Cilla S, et al. Stereotactic body reirradiation in gynaecological cancer: Outcomes and toxicities from a single institution experience. *Clin Oncol (R Coll Radiol)* 2023;35:682-693. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/37558548>.

166. Kim HJ, Chang JS, Koom WS, et al. Radiotherapy is a safe and effective salvage treatment for recurrent cervical cancer. *Gynecol Oncol* 2018;151:208-214. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30195468>.

167. Miyamoto DT, Viswanathan AN. Concurrent chemoradiation for vaginal cancer. *PLoS One* 2013;8:e65048. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23762284>.

168. Rajagopalan MS, Xu KM, Lin JF, et al. Adoption and impact of concurrent chemoradiation therapy for vaginal cancer: a National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) study. *Gynecol Oncol* 2014;135:495-502. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25281493>.

169. Wo JY, Viswanathan AN. Impact of radiotherapy on fertility, pregnancy, and neonatal outcomes in female cancer patients. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2009;73:1304-1312. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19306747>.

170. Pahisa J, Martinez-Roman S, Martinez-Zamora MA, et al. Laparoscopic ovarian transposition in patients with early cervical cancer. *Int J Gynecol Cancer* 2008;18:584-589. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18476952>.

171. Morice P, Juncker L, Rey A, et al. Ovarian transposition for patients with cervical carcinoma treated by radiosurgical combination. *Fertil Steril* 2000;74:743-748. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11020517>.

172. Eifel PJ, Levenback C, Wharton JT, Oswald MJ. Time course and incidence of late complications in patients treated with radiation therapy for FIGO stage IB carcinoma of the uterine cervix. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 1995;32:1289-1300. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7635768>.

173. Forrest JL, Ackerman I, Barbera L, et al. Patient outcome study of concurrent chemoradiation, external beam radiotherapy, and high-dose rate brachytherapy in locally advanced carcinoma of the cervix. *Int J Gynecol Cancer* 2010;20:1074-1078. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20683420>.

174. Erickson-Whitmann B, Rownd J, Khater K. Biologic and physical aspects of radiation oncology. In: Barakat R, Markman M, Randall M, eds. *Principles and Practice of Gynecology Oncology*, 5th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2009:325-380.

175. Perez CA, Grigsby PW, Lockett MA, et al. Radiation therapy morbidity in carcinoma of the uterine cervix: dosimetric and clinical correlation. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 1999;44:855-866. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10386643>.

176. Castells MC, Tennant NM, Sloane DE, et al. Hypersensitivity reactions to chemotherapy: outcomes and safety of rapid desensitization in 413 cases. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2008;122:574-580. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18502492>.

177. Sampson HA, Munoz-Furlong A, Campbell RL, et al. Second symposium on the definition and management of anaphylaxis: summary report—second National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease/Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network symposium. *Ann Emerg Med*



2006;47:373-380. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16546624>.

178. Manivannan V, Decker WW, Stead LG, et al. Visual representation of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease and Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network criteria for anaphylaxis. *Int J Emerg Med* 2009;2:3-5.

Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19390910>.

179. Lenz HJ. Management and preparedness for infusion and hypersensitivity reactions. *Oncologist* 2007;12:601-609. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17522249>.

180. Markman M, Zanotti K, Peterson G, et al. Expanded experience with an intradermal skin test to predict for the presence or absence of carboplatin hypersensitivity. *J Clin Oncol* 2003;21:4611-4614. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/14673050>.

181. Lee CW, Matulonis UA, Castells MC. Rapid inpatient/outpatient desensitization for chemotherapy hypersensitivity: standard protocol effective in 57 patients for 255 courses. *Gynecol Oncol* 2005;99:393-399.

Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16054201>.

182. Lee CW, Matulonis UA, Castells MC. Carboplatin hypersensitivity: a 6-h 12-step protocol effective in 35 desensitizations in patients with gynecological malignancies and mast cell/IgE-mediated reactions. *Gynecol Oncol* 2004;95:370-376. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15491759>.

183. Arbyn M, Dillner J. Review of current knowledge on HPV vaccination: an appendix to the European Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Cervical Cancer Screening. *J Clin Virol* 2007;38:189-197. Available at:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17258503>.

184. Rambout L, Hopkins L, Hutton B, Fergusson D. Prophylactic vaccination against human papillomavirus infection and disease in women: a systematic review of randomized controlled trials. *CMAJ* 2007;177:469-

479. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17671238>.