

CERVICAL CANCER

What is cervical cancer?

When cancer starts in the cervix, it is called cervical cancer. The cervix connects the vagina (birth canal) to the upper part of the uterus. The uterus (or womb) is where a baby grows when a woman is pregnant.

Risk

HPV

HPV is a common virus that is passed from one person to another during intercourse. Almost all cervical cancers are caused by HPV.

All women are at risk for cervical cancer. It occurs most often in women over age 30. Long-lasting infection with certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV) is the main cause of cervical cancer. (CDC, 2019)

The most important thing you can do to detect cervical cancer is to have regular screening tests.

Cervical cancer is highly preventable

Screening tests and a vaccine to prevent HPV infections are available.

Two screening tests detect cervical cancer or find it early: Pap smear and the HPV test.

