

Does the test hurt?

You might experience some discomfort or pain. You must try to relax by taking slow, deep breaths as it may hurt more if you are tense. If it is painful, tell the doctor or nurse straightaway as they may be able to reduce your discomfort.

What about HPV testing?

HPV can cause abnormal changes in the cervix. If your screening result shows borderline cell changes or mild abnormalities (known as mild or low-grade dyskaryosis), an HPV test may be carried out on the sample of your cells taken during screening. For more information, please consult your doctor today.

Can Cervical screening prevent cancer?

Yes. Regular Cervical screening is the best way to detect changes to the cervix before cancer develops. Early detection and treatment can prevent cancer developing in around 75% of cases. Screening can also find cervical cancer early on, when treatment is more likely to be effective.

Please consult your doctor today for more information regarding following tests as well,

CERVICAL SCREENING TEST

- * Cervical PAP smear, Genital, Female Liquid based
- * HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS (HPV) detection and genotyping, PCR Qualitative

**Blind faith
is worse than
blind eyes.**

Ensure
Cervical screening
at the earliest to avoid
Cervical cancer later.



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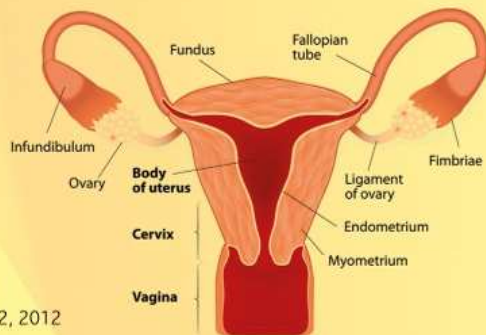


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What is Cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer develops in the cervix, the entrance to the womb (see diagram below). It is caused by a virus called the Human Papilloma Virus or HPV.

Cervical cancer can be very serious. After breast cancer, it is the most common women's cancer in the world. 80 % of new cervical cancer cases are detected in India¹ and 1 death in every 7 minutes.²



Source :

1. www.medindia.net
2. Times of India, Feb. 2, 2012

What is HPV and how it spreads?

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common infection and most women get it at some time in their life. There are many types of HPV, and some types can cause abnormalities in the cervix. In some cases, these abnormalities may (if left untreated) go on to develop into Cervical cancer.

HPV is easily transmitted during intimate sexual contact between partners. This includes intimate contact between men and women and between partners of the same sex. The virus shows no symptoms as it is so common that most people will get infected at some point in their lifetime.

What is Cervical screening?

- Cervical screening is a test for diagnosing Cervical cancer. It is a test to check the health of the cervix, which is the lower part of the womb (often called the neck of the womb).
- For many women, the test results show that everything is fine.
- But for around 1 in 20 women, the test shows changes in cells that can be caused by many things.

- Cervical screening is also introducing the tests for the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). Certain types of HPV can cause abnormal changes in the cervix.

Why are women offered Cervical screening?

Cervical cancer can often be prevented. The signs that it may develop can be spotted early on so it can be stopped before it even gets started. Not going for Cervical screening is one of the biggest risk factors for developing Cervical cancer.

Should all women undergo the test?

Test is offered to all women aged between 25 and 64 but Cervical cancer is more common if they:

- Smoke
- First had sex at an early age
- Have had several sexual partners or have had a sexual partner who has had several other partners
- Take Immunosuppressant drugs (for example, after an organ transplant)
- If they have passed the menopause, they still need to be tested to check that their cervix is healthy. They should ask their doctors for advice if they:
 - Have had a hysterectomy
 - Are over 65
 - Have never had sex with a man or woman

What happens during the test?

The doctor or nurse will ask you to lie down on a couch. They will then gently put a small instrument, called a Speculum, into your vagina to hold it open. Then, they will wipe a small brush-like device over the cervix to pick up some cells.

They will put these cells into a small container of liquid and send it away for the cells to be transferred onto a slide and examined under a microscope. The test takes just a few minutes.