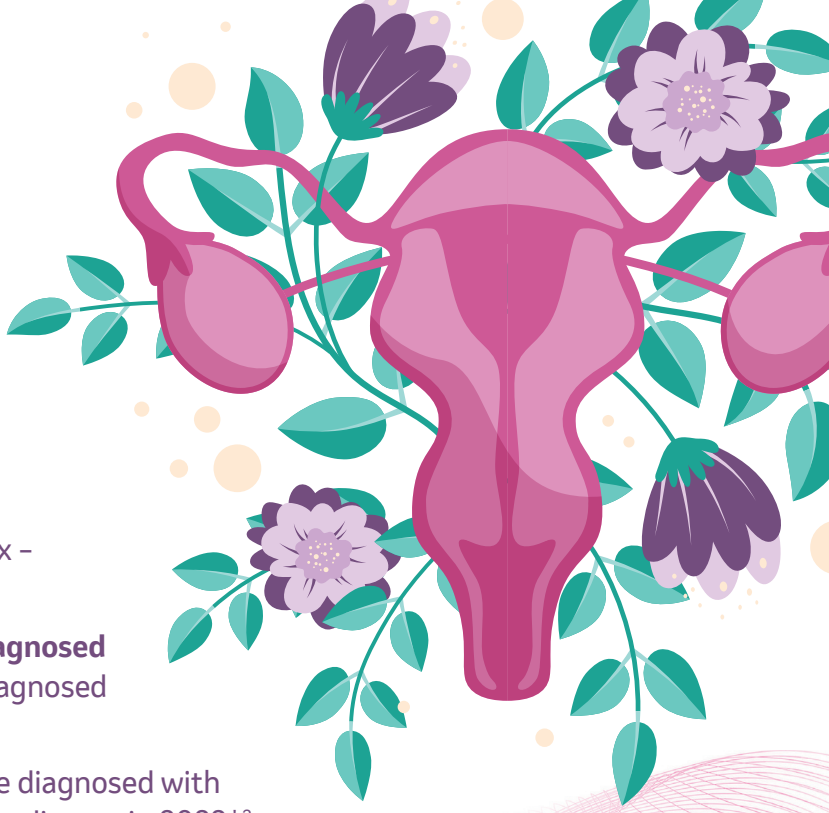
# Understanding Cervical Cancer



## Key Statistics

- Cervical cancer starts in the cells lining the cervix – the lower part of the uterus[1]
- Cervical cancer is the **fourth** most frequently **diagnosed cancer in women** and **eighth** most commonly diagnosed cancer overall worldwide[2]
- Globally, it's estimated that **662,301** people were diagnosed with cervical cancer and **348,874** people died from the disease in 2022*[3]

*The most recent year for which data are available as of July 2024.




## Risk Factors

Several risk factors can increase your chance of developing cervical cancer.[4] These include:

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) - HPV infection is one of the most important risk factors for cervical cancer[4]
- Family history of cervical cancer[4]
- Smoking[4]
- Long-term use of oral contraceptives[4]
- Sexual history[4]
- Weakened immune system[4]
- Diet low in fruits and vegetables[4]

Although these risk factors can increase the odds of developing cervical cancer, many with these risks do not develop this disease.[4]
If you think you may be at risk, it's important to talk to your doctor.

## Early Screening, Symptoms and Diagnosis

Women with early cervical cancers and pre-cancers (cell abnormalities in the cervix which have the potential to develop into cancer) usually have no symptoms.[1,5] The best way to identify early cervical cancer or pre-cancer is through regular screenings, including:[5]

- HPV testing
- Pap testing**

With regular screening, the development of cervical cancer may be avoided or detected early.[5]



**Papanicolaou test – a small brush is used to remove cells from the surface of the cervix and surrounding area so they can be examined for cervical cancer, pre-cancers and other conditions[6]

Once the cancer becomes larger and spreads into nearby tissue, symptoms may become noticeable. The most common symptoms are:[5]

- Abnormal vaginal bleeding or discharge[5]
- Pain or bleeding with intercourse[5]
- Pelvic pain[5]

**If you have any of these symptoms or if you receive an abnormal HPV or Pap test result, your doctor may want to perform tests to help confirm or rule out a cervical cancer or pre-cancer diagnosis since these symptoms may have other causes.[5] The following tests are designed to help examine the cervix:**

## Colposcopy

- An instrument with a light and a magnifying lens (colposcope) is used to look for abnormal areas on the surface of the cervix. A speculum keeps the vagina open and the colposcope stays outside the body[5]



## Biopsy

- **Colposcopic biopsy**
  Biopsy forceps are used to collect a tissue sample from an abnormal area on the surface of the cervix during a colposcopy[5]
- **Endocervical curettage (endocervical scraping)**
  A narrow instrument is inserted into the endocervical canal (the part of the cervix closest to the uterus) to take a tissue sample[5]
- **Cone biopsy**
  A doctor will remove a cone-shaped piece of tissue from the surface of the cervix and the endocervical canal[5]

## Treatment

Treatment options for cervical cancer vary based on multiple factors, including the type of cancer, whether you want to have children and the stage of the cancer.[7] Common types of treatment include:



Surgery[7]



Targeted Therapy[7]



Immunotherapy[7]



Radiation Therapy[7]



Chemotherapy[7]

## MSD's Commitment

MSD is dedicated to helping people with gynecologic cancer by advancing research and providing additional treatment options.



WOMEN'S CANCER
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**References: 1.** American Cancer Society. What is Cervical Cancer? Available from https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/CRC/PDF/Public/8599.00.pdf. [Accessed 6 November 2024]. **2.** World Cancer Research Fund International. Cervical cancer statistics. Available from https://www.wcrf.org/cancer-trends/cervical-cancer-statistics/. [Accessed 6 November 2024]. **3.** Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Cervix Uteri Fact Sheet. Available from https://gco.iarc.who.int/media/globocan/factsheets/cancers/23-cervix-uteri-fact-sheet.pdf. [Accessed 6 November 2024]. **4.** American Cancer Society. Cervical Cancer Causes, Risk Factors, and Prevention. Available from https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/CRC/PDF/Public/8600.00.pdf. [Accessed 6 November 2024]. **5.** American Cancer Society. Cervical Cancer Early Detection, Diagnosis, and Staging. Available from https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/CRC/PDF/Public/8601.00.pdf. [Accessed 6 November 2024]. **6.** National Cancer Institute. Definition of Papanicolaou test. Available from https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/papanicolaou-test [Accessed 6 November 20244]. **7.** American Cancer Society. Treating Cervical Cancer. Available from https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/CRC/PDF/Public/8602.00.pdf [Accessed 6 November 2024].

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