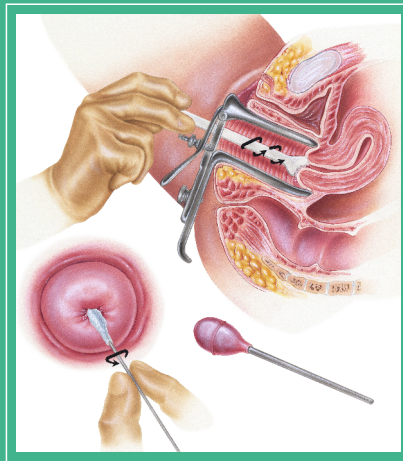


What Happens During A Pap Smear?

- You lie on your back on an examination table with your feet raised and supported by footrests. This allows the health care professional to examine your external genital area, vagina, and cervix.
- The health care professional will insert a speculum into your vagina. The speculum gently spreads apart the vaginal walls allowing the inside of the vagina and cervix to be examined.
- This allows the health care professional to collect several samples of cells from your cervix using a special cotton swab, brush (cytobrush or cervix brush), or a small spatula.
- Cells are collected from the visible part of the cervix as well as from its opening.



What are the benefits of a pap smear?

The pap smear is an easy, effective way to detect early cervical cancer. This is important, as cervical cancer can be cured with a simple treatment to the cervix if it is caught early enough.

Later stages of cervical cancer require more involved treatment, such as a hysterectomy and radiotherapy.

Your results are important - ask for them



**PinkDrive offers these services
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Early Detection

Will Help
Prolong A Life



**Cervical Cancer
&
Pap Smears**

**Questions
&
Answers**



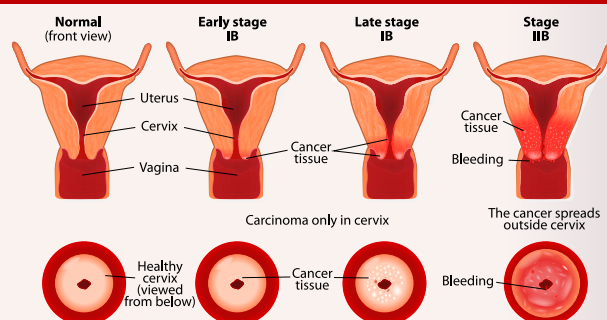
What is Cervical Cancer?

Cancer starts when cells in the body begin to grow out of control. Cells in nearly any part of the body can become cancer, and can spread to other areas of the body.

Cervical cancer happens when normal cells in the cervix change into abnormal cells and grow out of control. The cervix is the bottom part of the uterus (womb).

- The cervix is made of two different parts:
- The part closest to the uterus is called the

CERVICAL CANCER



What Are The Risk Factors Of Cervical Cancer?

Several risk factors increase your chance of developing cervical cancer:

- Sexual intercourse from an early age
- Multiple sexual partners
- High risk sexual partner
- Sexual Transmitted infections
- Immunosuppression

Although these risk factors increase your chance of developing cervical cancer, not all women with these risks develop this disease.

What Are The Symptoms of Cervical Cancer

Early cervical cancer often has no symptoms, but a woman may experience abnormal VAGINAL BLEEDING:

- In between menstrual cycles
- After sexual intercourse
- After menopause

A woman may also experience pelvic pain. These symptoms can also be caused by conditions that are not cancer. If you experience any of the above seek medical help.

What Causes Cervical Cancer?

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) which causes genital warts is associated with the development of cervical cancer.

Can Cervical Cancer Be Prevented?

In many cases, yes. Almost all cervical cancer is caused by a virus called HPV (Human Papillomavirus) that is spread through skin-to-skin contact and bodily fluids. Vaccines that prevent people from getting infected with HPV are now available. Ask your doctor if and when you should get an HPV vaccine. This vaccine is available for both women and men, and works best if you receive it before you become sexually active.

Treating pre-cancer cells can prevent them from turning into cervical cancer.

Is There A Test For Cervical Cancer ?

Yes, a Pap smear is used to screen women for cervical cancer and to find pre-cancers before they can turn into invasive cancer. If a pre-cancer is found, it can be treated, which prevents cervical cancer before it really starts.

What Is A Pap Smear?

A Pap smear is a procedure used to collect cells from the cervix so that they can be looked at under the microscope to find cancer and pre-cancer. A Pap smear can be done during a pelvic exam, but not all pelvic exams include a Pap smear.

A Pap smear is performed by a health care professional placing a speculum, which is a metal or plastic instrument that keeps the vagina open so that the cervix can be seen clearly, inside the vagina. Next, using a small spatula, a sample of cells and mucus is lightly scraped from the cervix. A small brush or a cotton-tipped swab may also be inserted into the opening of the cervix to take a sample from the cervix.

Is A Pap Smear And Pelvic Exam The Same?

Many people confuse pelvic exams with Pap smears. The pelvic exam is part of a woman's routine health care. During a pelvic exam, the doctor looks at and feels the reproductive organs, including the uterus and the ovaries and may do tests for sexually transmitted infections. Pelvic exams may help find other types of cancers and reproductive problems. Pap smears are often done during pelvic exams, if need be.

How Often Should I Have A Papsmear?

Under the age of 21: A Pap smear may not be necessary.

Between the ages 21 to 29: A Pap smear may be required once every three years, if multiple risk factors are present.

Between the ages 30 to 65: A Pap smear may be required every three to five years. *Earlier screening intervals may be recommended, by a health care professional.

How To Ensure Your Pap Smear Test is more Accurate

- ❌ Avoid vaginal intercourse at least 2 days before a Pap Smear.
- ❌ Avoid drinking too much fluid before the appointment to make sure that you empty your bladder.
- ❌ Try not to schedule an appointment for a time during your menstrual period. The best time is at least 5 days after your menstrual period stops.
- ❌ Don't use tampons, birth-control foams, jellies, or other vaginal creams, moisturizers, or lubricants, douche or vaginal medicines for 2 to 3 days before a Pap smear.

How To Prevent Cervical Cancer



Regular Checkups



Get The HPV Vaccine



Regular Pap Smears