

Cervical Cancer

WHAT IS CERVICAL CANCER?

Cervical cancer is a disease in which cells lining the cervix grows out of control. The cervix connects the vagina (birth canal) to the body of the uterus (the upper part where a fetus grows).

All women are at risk of cervical cancer and occurs most often over 30 years old.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CERVICAL CANCER?

- Bleeding or discharge from the vagina that is not normal for you, such as bleeding after sex.
- Bleeding after you've gone through menopause.
- Pelvic pain or pressure that doesn't go away.
- Bloating or feeling too full too fast.

If you notice any of these symptoms and it goes on for two weeks or longer, talk to your health care provider right away.

WHY IS SCREENING IMPORTANT?

Early detection is the best way to prevent cervical cancer. This is why annual screening tests is so important. There are two screening tests:

- **Pap test (or Pap smear)** - looks for cell changes (precancers) on the cervix.
- **HPV test** - looks for the virus, human papillomavirus, that can cause cell changes. The HPV vaccine protects against HPV that most often cause cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancers.

WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE MY RISK OF GETTING CERVICAL CANCER?

The best way is to get regular screening tests starting at age 21, but you can take additional steps that help reduce the risk of developing cervical cancer:

- Don't smoke.
- Use condoms during sex.
- Limit your number of sexual partners.

HERE AT HEART OF OHIO FAMILY HEALTH:



OUR WOMEN'S HEALTH TEAM

We have a team of trained physicians, nurse midwives, and other medical professionals who provide patients with high-quality care.

We offer our patients a variety of services, including cervical cancer screenings, gynecological services, birth control services, pregnancy services, and more.

INSURANCE

We accept all Medicare, Medicaid, and most major commercial insurance plans.

SLIDING FEE SCALE

We have a sliding fee scale based on proof of household income relative to the Federal Poverty Level and family size.

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