

Cervical Cancer Prevention Week 2019

Every year in the UK, around 3,000 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is the most common cancer in women aged 35 and under.

Cervical cancer is not thought to be hereditary. In 99.7% of cases, cervical cancers are caused by persistent infections with a virus called high-risk [human papillomavirus \(HPV\)](#). HPV is a very common virus transmitted through skin to skin contact in the genital area. Around four out of five sexually active adults (80%) will be infected with some type of HPV in their lives. However, for the majority of women this will not result in cervical cancer. While HPV infection is common, cervical cancer is rare.

Cervical cancer develops in a woman's cervix (the entrance to the womb from the vagina). It mainly affects sexually active women aged between 30 and 45.

Symptoms of cervical cancer

Cancer of the cervix often has no symptoms in its early stages. If you do have symptoms, the most common is abnormal vaginal bleeding, which can occur during or after sex, in between [periods](#), or new bleeding after you have been through the [menopause](#).

Abnormal bleeding doesn't mean you have cervical cancer, but you should see your GP as soon as possible to get it checked out.

If your GP thinks you might have cervical cancer, you should be referred to see a specialist within 2 weeks.

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Do you know how cervical cancer can be prevented? During Cervical Cancer Prevention Week we want as many people as possible to know how they can reduce their risk of the disease and to educate others.

When? Monday 21 – Sunday 27 January 2019

How can you reduce your risk of cervical cancer?

We want to ensure all women and people with a cervix know how cervical cancer can be prevented. This means:

- Attending [cervical screening](#) when invited
- Knowing the [symptoms of cervical cancer](#) and seeking medical advice if experiencing any
- Taking up the [HPV vaccination](#) if aged 11-18
- Knowing where to find [support](#) and further information

2 Women lose their lives to the disease every day

9 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer every day

75% of cervical cancers can be prevented by cervical screening (smear tests)