

- The most important risk factors for developing cervical cancer is an infection with HPV. HPV gene test can be used in combination with the PAP test to screen for cervical cancer in women who are 30 years and older

7. Are there any risks or side effects of this test?

There are no risks involved. It just takes five minutes of your time. Your doctor can easily take you PAP test while doing pelvic examination.

For more information/ query, please contact:

Department of Preventive Oncology

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Between 09:00 am - 05:30 pm

* except Sundays & gazetted holidays



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SAY NO TO
CERVICAL
CANCER
WITH THE RIGHT TEST
AT THE RIGHT TIME

CERVICAL CANCER is one of the commonest cancers among Indian females. If you are or were sexually active you should start getting regular pap test at age 21. The PAP test is one of the most reliable and effective cancer screening tests available.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

1. What is cervical cancer?

When cancer starts in the cervix it is called cervical cancer. The cervix is the lower, narrow end of the uterus. The cervix connects the vagina (the birth canal) to the uterus (or womb) where a baby grows when a woman is pregnant.

2. What are the symptoms of cervical cancer?

Women with early cervical cancer and pre - cancerous lesions usually have no symptoms. Symptoms, when they appear, are:

- Post menopausal bleeding
- Intermenstrual bleeding or bleeding after sex
- Unusual discharge from vagina - may be blood stained
- Pelvic pain

Don't wait for symptoms to appear. Be screened regularly.

3. What raises a woman's chance of getting cervical cancer?

Although almost all cervical cancers are caused by HPV Infection, not all women with an HPV infection develop cervical cancer. Most HPV infections go away without treatment. Only when the infection persists, it may cause cervical cancer overtime. Other risk factors for cervical cancer include:

- Initiation of sexual activity at a young age <18 years
- Having many sexual partners
- Smoking
- Bad genital hygiene
- Giving birth to many children
- Having a weakened immune system

4. How effective is a PAP Test?

The PAP test looks for the precancerous cell changes on the cervix that can be treated, so that cervical cancer is prevented. It can also find cervical cancer early, when treatment is most effective. Since the introduction of the PAP test in 1950s, deaths caused by cervical cancers have reduced drastically in developed countries.



5. Who require a PAP Test?

For women aged 21 years to 65 years (who are or were sexually active), it is important to continue getting a PAP test - even if you think you are too old to have a child, or are not having sex anymore.

- **You don't require a PAP test if**
 - You are older than 65 years and have had normal PAP test results for several years
 - You have had your cervix removed as part of a total hysterectomy for non cancerous conditions, like fibroids

6. How can I prevent cervical cancer?

- Get the HPV vaccine if you are in the recommended age group. It is most effective when given to sexually naive girls (9 - 26 years)
- See your doctor regularly for a PAP test that can find precancerous changes on the cervix

