

**Risk Factors:**

- Exposure to HPV (Human papillomavirus) which is a very common viral infection passed from person to person through sexual contact. These viruses may infect the cervix. Ask your healthcare provider about the HPV vaccine.
- Lack of regular pap smears.
- Age: Women over the age of 40
- Women or their partners who have had several sexual encounters with different partners.
- The use of birth control pills over five years.

Symptoms:

- Abnormal vaginal bleeding
- Bleeding or pain after sexual intercourse
- Menstrual periods that are heavy and last longer than usual
- Pelvic pain

Screening:

Routine pap smears can find cervical cancer or abnormal cells that may lead to cancer. Your healthcare provider recommends you have a pap smear three years after beginning sexual intercourse or at age 21. Pap smears are recommended for all women every two to three years. If you have a family history of cervical cancer, you should have a pap smear every year or as recommended by your healthcare provider.

*This information is for educational purposes. It is not intended to replace medical advice from your healthcare provider.
Please consult your healthcare provider for advice about a specific medical condition.*



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January is Cervical Health Awareness Month

**Detecting cervical
cancer early can save
your life. Cervical
cancer has a very
high cure rate.**

