

What is cervical cancer screening?

Cervical cancer screening uses HPV and Pap tests to detect cancer early. HPV tests for the specific virus that can develop into cervical cancer. The Pap test (also called Pap smear) looks for cell changes on the cervix, which could become cancer and require treatment.

What are the signs of cervical cancer?

You may not have any signs during the early stages of cervical cancer. Advanced cancer may cause bleeding or discharge that is not normal for you. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, some signs associated with gynecologic cancers, such as cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal and vulval cancers, include:

- Bloating for no obvious reason.
- Pelvic pain or pressure that doesn't go away.
- Feeling too full, too fast, even when you eat just a little.
- Unusual bleeding or spotting.

These signs can occur with other illnesses that are not cancer, so please discuss them with your doctor.



When should I receive cervical cancer screening?

The following guidelines summarize recommendations from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF).

Current screening guidelines	
Women under age 21	Do not screen for cervical cancer.
Women ages 21-49	Screen for cervical cancer every three years with cytology alone.
Women ages 30-65	Screen for cervical cancer every three years with cytology alone, every five years with HPV testing alone, or every five years with co-testing.
Women over age 65	Do not screen for cervical cancer.

Source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Preventive Services Task Force \(2018\) revision currently under review.](#)



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