

Cervical Cancer and Prevention



Department of Health



www.cervicalscreening.gov.hk





Content

- Cervical Cancer
- Cervical Screening
- Cervical Screening Programme





Cervical Cancer

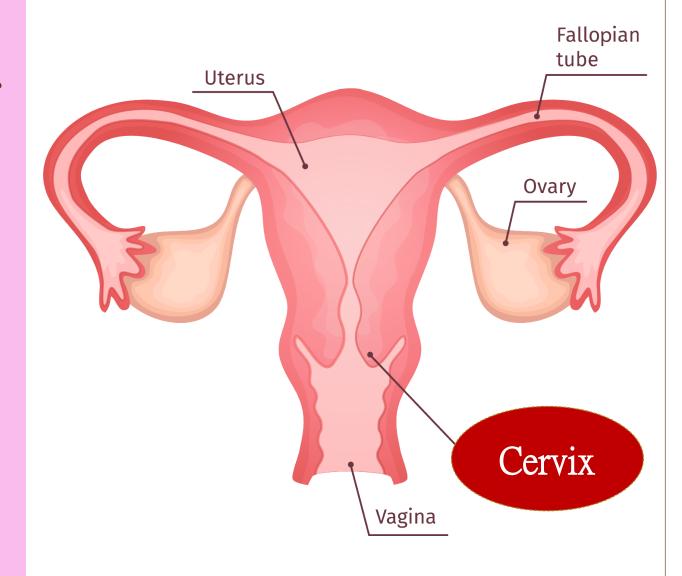
One of the 10 Most Common Cancers among local females

One of the 10 Leading
Causes of Cancer Deaths
among
local females





Structure of Uterus



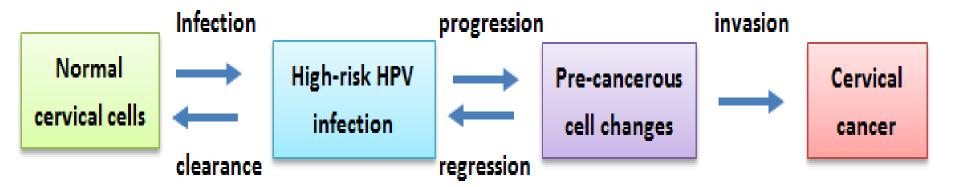




Natural History of Cervical Cancer

Persistent infection with cancer-causing (or high-risk) human papillomavirus (HPV) types

- Most women with HPV infection do not have any symptoms, and will clear the infection on their own
- Some women will develop abnormal (pre-cancerous) cell changes. While most of these changes will regress to normal, some may progress to cancer over years







Symptoms of Cervical Cancer

Abnormal vaginal bleeding

- Between periods
- During or after sex
- After menopause

Blood in urine or pain on passing urine (if urinary system is affected)

Foul-smelling vaginal discharge

Majority do not have any symptoms

Leg swelling (if lymphatic system is affected)

Pelvic pain, backache (if nerve or bone is affected)

General tiredness and weight loss



Risk Factors of Cervical Cancer

- Multiple sexual partners or sexual partner with multiple sexual partners
 - Sexual intercourse at an early age
- Co-infection with sexually-transmitted diseases
 - Smoking
- Weakened immunity, e.g. infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
 - Long term use of oral contraceptive pills for more than 5 years (but the risk returns to normal after 10 years of stopping use)
- High number of childbirths or young age at first pregnancy

Most commonly neglected risk factor: No regular cervical screening





Prevention of Cervical Cancer



Practise safer sex



Get HPV vaccination



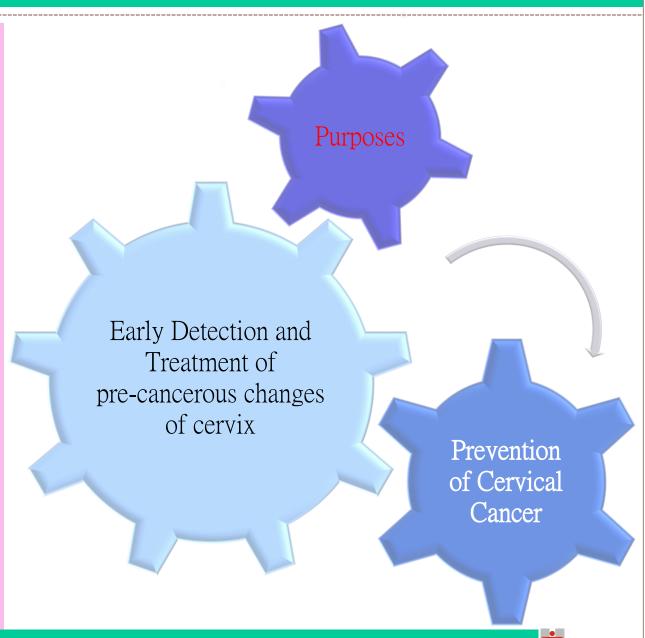
Do not smoke

Cervical Screening = Additional Protection





Cervical Screening







Cervical Screening

Common screening tests for cervical cancer include:

Human papillomavirus (HPV) test

- Checks for DNA (genetic material) of the highrisk types of HPV in cervical cells
- Suitable for women aged 30 64

Cytology test (also called cervical smear or Pap smear)

- Looks for abnormal changes in the cervical cells
- Suitable for women aged 25 64

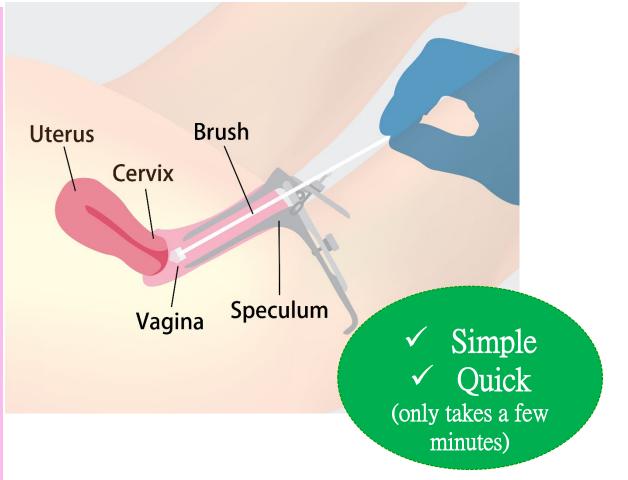
Co-testing (HPV test with cervical cytology)

• Suitable for women aged 30 - 64





Cervical Screening



- Healthcare professional puts a speculum into vagina
- Cells from cervix are collected with a brush



When Should You Have Cervical Screening?

From Age 25

Women who ever had sex should have regular screening starting from age 25

If two consecutive annual cervical cytology test results are normal, then screening can be done every 3 years.

Women aged between 30 and 64 also have the option of HPV testing or co-testing (HPV testing and cervical cytology) every 5 years.

Aged 65 years or above

Women aged 65 years or above may discontinue screening if routine screenings within 10 years are normal.

If you have symptoms

consult a doctor as soon as possible, even if your last screening result was normal



Cervical Screening Results

Negative result (Normal)

• Still need regular cervical screening

Positive result (Abnormal)

- Does not signify that you already have cancer
- Consult a doctor about follow-up plan and investigations



Who Needs Cervical Screening?

Aged 21-24 years

Women aged 21-24 years who ever had sex and at increased risk of cervical cancer, e.g. multiple sexual partners, smoking, etc., should seek advice from doctors concerning the need for cervical screening

Aged 25-64 years

Women aged 25-64 years who ever had sex should receive regular screening

Aged 65 years or above

Women aged 65 years or above who ever had sex

- may discontinue screening if routine screenings within 10 years are normal
- should be screened if they have never had cervical screening

Regular screening is still required even if you have received the HPV vaccination

HPV vaccination does not protect against all types of HPV nor can it clear existing HPV infection





Cervical Screening Programme

The Cervical Screening Programme was launched by the Department of Health in collaboration with the healthcare sector on 8 March 2004

- Encourage women to have regular cervical screening
- Increase the coverage of cervical screening
- Reduce the incidence and mortality rate of cervical cancer in Hong Kong







Benefits of joining the Cervical Screening Programme



Receive screening reminders by email, SMS, or post

Authorise service providers to view screening records for better and continuous care







Cervical Screening Programme: Methods of Registration

Online Cervical Screening Information System www.csis.gov.hk

By Post
The completed Registration form and a copy of your
HKID/ passport should be mailed to the Cervical
Screening Programme Office

Through Service Providers registered with Cervical Screening Programme

Registration form www.cervicalscreening.gov.hk/files/Women_Registration_Form-Eng.pdf







Where to have cervical screening?

- Family doctors
- Gynaecologists
- Non-governmental organisations
- Department of Health
 - Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHC)

Search for service providers registered with CSIS at www.cervicalscreening.gov. hk/en/serviceproviders.html

Where to Get Screened

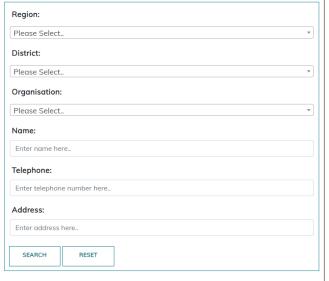


Home > Where to Get Screened

In Hong Kong, family doctors, gynaecologists, non-governmental organisations, Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) of the Department of Health (DH) provide cervical screening services.

If you are interested in cervical screening services at the MCHCs under DH, please call the Cervical Screening Service 24-hour Phone Booking and Information Hotline 3166 6631.

Search for service providers registered with CSIS



As appointment booking procedures and service charges may differ, please contact the service provider directly about the arrangement.







Booking cervical screening service at MCHC



Maternal and Child Health Centres of the Department of Health Cervical Screening Service 24-hour Phone Booking Hotline 3166 6631

How to Book:

https://www.fhs.gov.hk/english/main_ser/cs_service.html





Prevent Cervical Cancer

Regular screening

Early detection

Timely treatment

Cervical cancer prevention





Frequently Asked Questions

1.

I don't have any discomfort, do I need to have cervical screening?

- Most of the time, early abnormal cell change in your cervix or even early stage of cervical cancer does not cause any symptoms.
- Regular cervical screening is necessary even if you have no symptoms.

2.

I haven't had sex for a long time, do I need to have cervical screening?

- Cervical cancer may develop in a woman long after starting sexual activity.
- Risk of cervical cancer increases with age.
- You need regular cervical screening even if you have had sexual activity only once or a long time ago.
- If you have never had a screening, you should have one as soon as possible.





Frequently Asked Questions

3.

I have reached menopause already. Do I need to have cervical screening?

- Menopause does not protect a woman from cervical cancer.
 - As long as you have ever had sex, you should have regular cervical screening even if you have reached menopause.

4.

I have got human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, do I need to have cervical screening?

- Although HPV vaccination is effective to prevent HPV infection, it does not protect against the HPV types not included in the vaccine, nor against existing HPV infections.
- Women who have received HPV vaccination still need regular cervical screening for early detection and treatment of pre-cancerous cell changes in cervix to prevent cervical cancer.
- In other words, HPV vaccination cannot replace regular cervical screening.





Frequently Asked Questions

5.

I do not have family history of cervical cancer, do I need to have cervical screening?

- There is no strong familial tendency for cervical cancer.
- Women aged 25 to 64 years who ever had sex are recommended to have regular cervical screening.





More Information

Website of the Cervical Screening Programme www.cervicalscreening.gov.hk









More Information









