

Cervical Cancer Prevention Week (19th to 25th January 2026) is an important time to raise awareness of cervical cancer, encourage people to attend screening and highlight prevention methods. This week serves as a reminder of how vital early detection and vaccination are in reducing risks.

WHAT IS CERVICAL CANCER?

Cervical cancer is a type of cancer that affects the cervix, which is the lower part of the womb. It usually develops slowly, making regular screening highly effective in catching potential issues early. While most commonly diagnosed in people aged 30 to 35, anyone with a cervix can be affected.

The Main Cause of Cervical Cancer

*Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection

Prevention Strategies

*Screening and vaccination

Contributory Risk Factors:

- + Smoking,
- + Weakened immune system,
- + Long-term use of the contraceptive pill,
- + Other cancers.

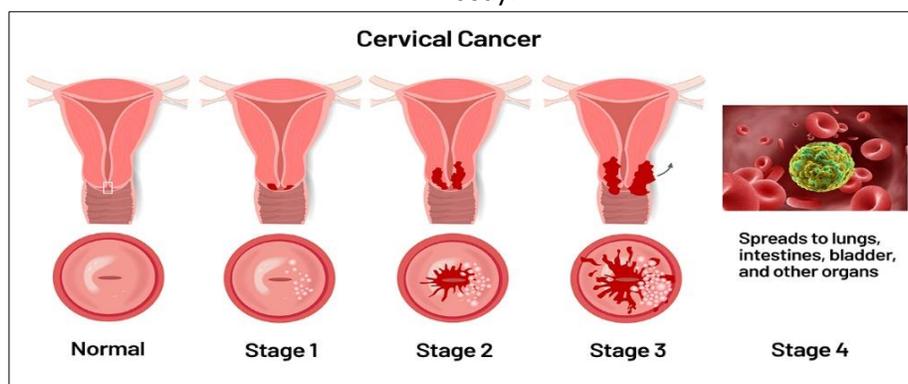
Signs and Symptoms of Cervical Cancer

Early stages of cervical cancer tend to not produce signs or symptoms, so it is important to have regular pelvic exams and screening with **PAP smears and HPV testing.**

- + Bleeding after intercourse
- + Pelvic pain
- + Pain with sexual intercourse
- + Abnormal vaginal discharge, bleeding or odor

CERVICAL CANCER STAGES

Cervical cancer staging is determined according to where the cancer is located and if it has spread to other parts of the body.



Stage I: The cancer has spread from the cervix lining into the deeper tissue but is still just found in the uterus. It has not spread to lymph nodes or other parts of the body.

Stage II: The cancer has spread beyond the cervix to nearby areas, such as the vagina or tissue near the cervix, but it is still inside the pelvic area. It has not spread to lymph nodes or other parts of the body.

Stage III: The tumor has spread to the pelvic wall, and/or involves the lower third of the vagina, and/or causes swelling of the kidney, called hydronephrosis, or stops a kidney from functioning. No lymph nodes are involved, and there is no distant spread.

Stage IVA: The cancer has spread to the bladder or rectum and may or may not have spread to the lymph nodes, but it has not spread to other parts of the body.

Stage IVB: The cancer has spread to other parts of the body.