

Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer

Cancer is when your body cells grow and divide abnormally. Cervical cancer is a cancer that originates in the cervix. (See page 15) Most cancers have the potential to spread to other parts of your body.

Typical symptoms that can be an indication of cervical cancer are the following:

- Abnormal vaginal bleeding
- Pain in your hip area (pelvis)
- Pain during sexual intercourse
- Bleeding after sexual intercourse

These symptoms might be a sign of cervical cancer, but can also be due to other causes. It is thus recommended to go see a doctor as soon as possible, if you experience any of these symptoms.

Causes

HPV are the biggest cause of cervical cancer. HPV infection can be prevented with vaccination. All girls in grade 4 can and should get HPV immunisations at school. HPV vaccines are also available at any clinic.

Other (less common) causes can also be: smoking, a weak immune system, starting sexual intercourse at a young age and having many sexual partners.

Diagnosis

Cervical cancer are diagnosed with pap smear screening, followed by a biopsy.

Screening

It is recommended that all women receive three PAP smears within their life time. This will be at ages 30, 40 and 50 years old. It is extremely important to detect cervical cancer early, seeing that this will result in timely and effective treatment thereof.

Treatment

Cervical cancer are usually treated with a combination of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy. The treatment and danger that the cancer might hold all depend on the stage of the cancer. The earlier the cancer are detected, the more likely it can be removed completely. It is vital to see a doctor whenever you experience any of the symptoms (listed above).

