



CERVICAL CANCER *Info Sheet*



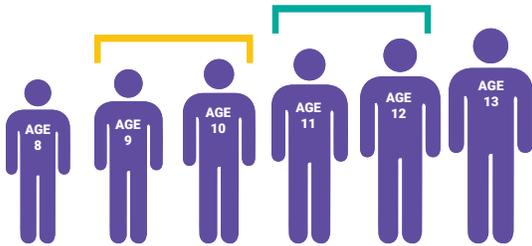
99%

of cervical cancers are caused by an infection with certain types of the HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV), which can now be largely prevented by vaccination.

The HPV vaccine **is only effective when** given before infection with HPV; experts advise getting the vaccine before becoming sexually active.

HPV VACCINE:

Prevents the HPV strains most commonly associated with genital warts, cervical and other cancers.

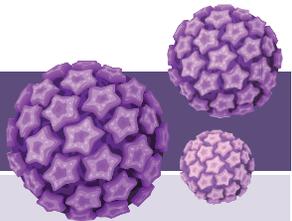


Experts recommend kids receive the HPV vaccine at age 11 or 12 as part of routine care, but it may be given as early as age 9.

The vaccination involves **2 to 3 doses** for **full benefit**.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Cervical cancer cases and deaths have declined 50% over the last three decades, however the disease remains a serious health threat, especially among African-American and Hispanic women.



ABOUT HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV)

Human Papillomaviruses are a group of more than 150 related viruses, some of which cause warts (papillomas) or can lead to cancer. Many HPVs are spread through sexual contact, including vaginal, oral or anal sex.

HPV infections are very common. Most people are unaware they're infected because they don't have symptoms. In some cases, however, the HPV infection persists and chronic infection can lead to cancer of the cervix, anus, vagina, penis, throat and other oral, and head and neck cancers.

PREVENT CERVICAL CANCER

- ✔ **Get the HPV vaccine.** Parents: talk to your children's doctor about vaccinating your daughters — and your sons.
- ✔ **Begin regular cervical cancer screening at age 21, including these tests:**
 - ✔ **Pap test** that collects cells from the cervix to detect any cell changes (dysplasia) that could lead to cancer. If your Pap test shows no abnormalities, repeat the test every three to five years (depending on HPV status) to age 65.
 - ✔ **HPV test** determines whether an HPV infection is present, or whether abnormal cervical cells were caused by an HPV strain that causes cancer. Women should have the HPV test every five years starting at age 30, or at any age when Pap test results are abnormal or unclear.

Preventing HPV infections and detecting and treating abnormal cell changes or precancerous lesions before they can progress to cancer is the most effective way to prevent cervical cancer altogether.

MOST ADULTS have been infected with **HPV** at some time in their lives

Median age at diagnosis for cervical cancer is **50**

ARE YOU AT RISK FOR CERVICAL CANCER?

Other factors may act together with HPV to increase cancer risk, including:

- ✓ Skipping Pap tests
- ✓ Smoking
- ✓ Weakened immune system (from HIV or immune-suppressing drugs)
- ✓ Many sexual partners
- ✓ Long-term use (5 years or more) of birth control pills
- ✓ Giving birth to 5 or more children
- ✓ Diethylstilbestrol (DES) exposure before birth (women whose mothers were given this drug during pregnancy between 1940 and 1971 may be at increased risk for a rare form of cervical cancer)

WHY ROSWELL PARK FOR CERVICAL CANCER?

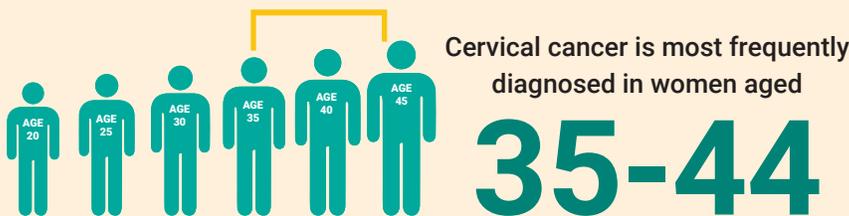
- ✓ **Nationally recognized.** A National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, the only one in upstate New York.
- ✓ **A multidisciplinary care approach** by a team of gynecologic and radiation oncologists, plus psychologists, social workers, dieticians and other experts, who work together to provide the highest level comprehensive and integrated care – all under one roof.
- ✓ **Expert pathology review** by board-certified pathologists who focus on gynecological cancers.
- ✓ **Treatment options that consider fertility** such as surgical procedures that leave the uterus intact.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Through the **Witness Project of Buffalo/Niagara and Esperanza y Vida,**

Roswell Park provides cancer education and outreach programs to reach women most at risk for cervical cancer in our community, including African-American and Hispanic women.



MEET OUR DOCTORS



- 1. Peter Frederick, MD, FACOG**
Director, Minimally Invasive Surgery,
Gynecologic Oncology
- 2. Katherine LaVigne Mager, MD**
Gynecologic Oncology
- 3. Karen McLean, MD, PhD**
Gynecologic Oncology

- 4. Emese Zsiros, MD, PhD, FACOG**
Gynecologic Oncology
- 5. David Mattson, Jr., MD**
Director, GYN Radiation

HPV IS A COMMON VIRUS THAT INFECTS TEENS AND ADULTS.



80% of people will get an HPV infection in their lifetime.