

WHAT IS CERVICAL CANCER AND HOW IS IT CAUSED?

- Cervical cancer is preventable.
- Cervical cancer is caused by HPV.
- Cervical cancer is only found in women but men can still transmit the HPV virus.
- If an HPV infection does NOT go away, cervical cancer can develop in about 10 years.
- During those 10 years, HPV can be treated and cured before it causes cervical cancer.



WHAT IS HPV?

- HPV is Human Papillomavirus.
- HPV is an infection spread by sexual intercourse.
- If HPV persists for many years, it can cause cervical cancer.

What You Need to Know About HPV and Cervical Cancer



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HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE HPV ?

- You can be infected with HPV and not know it. You will not feel or see the virus. Usually there are no symptoms.
- The only way for a woman to know if she has HPV is to get a fast test by a doctor.
- Many HPV infections go away with no treatment.
- A positive HPV test does NOT mean you have cervical cancer, but you have a greater risk of developing cervical cancer someday.
- If the HPV virus is detected and treated early, cervical cancer can be prevented.
- If you have HIV virus and the HPV virus, cervical cancer may develop faster.

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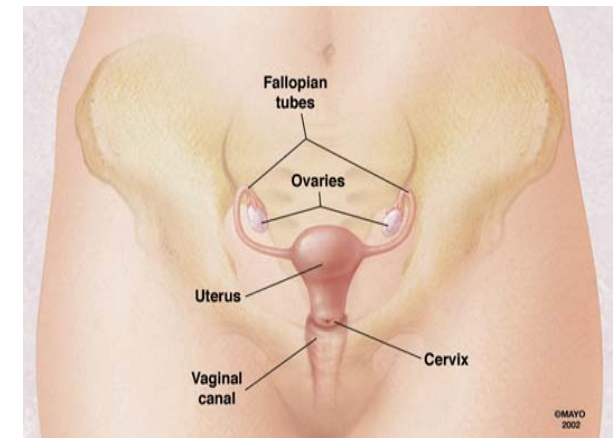
WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE HPV TEST?

- The HPV test is FREE.
- You will sign a form agreeing to have the HPV test.
- A doctor will put a small metal tube in your vagina and collect cells from your cervix.
- The exam takes only a few minutes and is not painful.
- You will get an ID card and day to return for test results in 5-6 weeks.
- If bad cells are in your cervix, you need to return to the clinic for 2 more visits for treatment.

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HOW CAN I PROTECT AGAINST HPV INFECTION?

- To decrease the risk of getting HPV:
 - Limit your number of sexual partners
 - Use a condom every time you have sex
- It is important to encourage other women to get HPV tested.



Female Reproductive Organs