

# CERVICAL CANCER

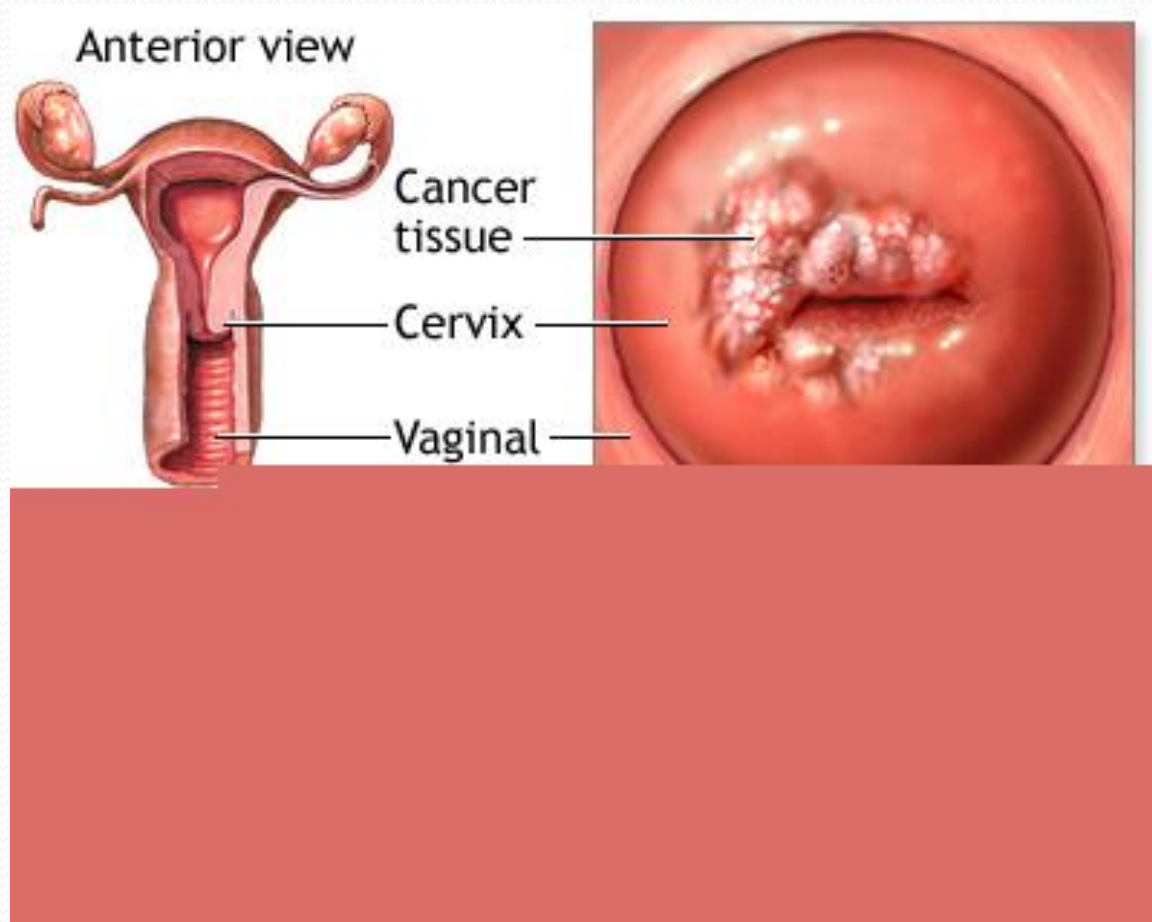
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# Session Objectives

**By the end of this sessions, participants will be able to**

- Define Cervical Cancer
- Identify causes of Cervical Cancer
- Understand Signs and Symptoms of cervical cancer
- Illustrate various tests done
- Manage and treat cervical cancer
- Identify ways of preventing cervical cancer

# Cervical Cancer



# Meaning of Cervical Cancer

- It occurs when abnormal cells on the cervix grow out of control. The cervix is the lower part of the uterus that opens into the vagina. Cervical cancer can often be successfully treated when it's found early. It is usually found at a very early stage through a visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA) screening test.
- Cervical cancer is one of the most common cancers in women worldwide. But in countries where cervical cancer screening is routine, this cancer is not so common.
- Most cervical cancer is caused by a virus called human papillomavirus, or HPV. You can get HPV by having sexual contact with someone who has it. There are many types of the HPV virus. Not all types of HPV cause cervical cancer. Some of them cause genital warts, but other types may not cause any symptoms.

# Meaning Contd

- Cervical cancer usually develops slowly.
- It starts as a precancerous condition called dysplasia. This condition can be detected by a Pap smear and is 100% treatable.
- It can take years for these changes develop into cervical cancer.
- Most women who are diagnosed with cervical cancer today have not had regular Pap smears, or they have not followed up on abnormal Pap smear results.

# Overview

- **In the Uganda over 3,577 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer annually.**

Dr. Fred Okuku of Uganda Cancer Institute in Mulago National Referral Hospital said that in the last three years alone, the number of cancer patients shot up with over 60% of the patients presenting advanced cases of the cancer.

“Cervical Cancer is now present at 18 years and not 35 years (as it used to be) because many girls are starting sex at a much younger age,” he said.

The whole country has only 35 cryo therapy machines, with 15 machines in 14 government referral hospitals and one health centre 4 in Nakasongola, according to Dr. Collins Tusingwire, Acting Commissioner for health Services in the Ministry of Health. Cryo therapy machines are machines used for early detection of cancerous cells.

last October that a total of 20 cryo therapy machines were given to 20 private health centers on the ProFam network, in different parts of the country.

# Causes

- Almost all cervical cancers are caused by HPV (human papilloma virus). HPV is a common virus that is spread through sexual intercourse. There are many different types (strains) of HPV. Some strains lead to cervical cancer. Other strains can cause genital warts. Others do not cause any problems at all.
- A woman's sexual habits and patterns can increase her risk of developing cervical cancer. Risky sexual practices include:
  - Having sex at an early age
  - Having multiple sexual partners
  - Having a partner or many partners who are active in high-risk sexual activities

# Signs and Symptoms

- Abnormal cervical cell changes rarely cause symptoms. But you may have symptoms if those cell changes grow into cervical cancer. Symptoms of cervical cancer may include:
- Bleeding from the vagina that is not normal, such as bleeding between menstrual periods, after sex, or after menopause.
- Pain in the lower belly or pelvis.
- Pain during sex.
- Vaginal discharge that isn't normal.



# Signs and Symptoms contd

- *The symptoms of advanced cervical cancer may include:*
- Anemia because of abnormal vaginal bleeding.
- Ongoing pelvic, leg, or back pain.
- Urinary problems because of blockage of a kidney or ureter.
- Leakage of urine or stool into the vagina. This can happen when an abnormal opening (fistula) has developed between the vagina and the bladder or rectum.
- Weight loss.

# Tests

- Use of Acetic acid through observations of lesions-visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA)
- Use of Vinegar
- Precancerous changes of the cervix and cervical cancer cannot be seen with the naked eye. Special tests and tools are needed to spot such conditions:
- A Pap smear screens for precancers and cancer, but does not help make a final diagnosis.
- If abnormal changes are found, the cervix is usually examined under magnification. This procedure is called colposcopy. Pieces of tissue are removed (biopsied) during this procedure. The tissue is sent to a lab for examination.
- A procedure called cone biopsy may also be done.

# Tests

Cervical biopsy ("punch"):  
small tissue samples are taken  
from the cervix and examined  
for disease or other problems



Cervix viewed  
through speculum  
with patient in  
lithotomy position

# treatment

- Cervical cancer found in its early stages can be successfully treated. The choice of treatment and the long-term outcome (prognosis) of cervical cancer depend on the type and stage of cancer. Your age, overall health, quality of life, and desire to be able to have children must also be considered.
- This is done by use of a Cryotherapy Machine

# Treatment

## *Treatment of cervical cancer depends on:*

- The stage of the cancer
- The size and shape of the tumor
- The woman's age and general health
- Her desire to have children in the future
- Early cervical cancer can be cured by removing or destroying the precancerous or cancerous tissue. There are surgical ways to do this without removing the uterus or damaging the cervix, so that a woman can still have children in the future.

# tx

- **Surgery** to remove the cancer. The type of surgery needed depends on the location and extent of cervical cancer and whether you want to have children.
- **Radiation therapy**, which uses high-dose X-rays or implants in the vaginal cavity to kill cancer cells. It is used for certain stages of cervical cancer. It is often used in combination with surgery.
- **Chemoradiation**, which is a combination of chemotherapy and radiation. This is often used to treat both early-stage and late-stage cervical cancer.
- **Chemotherapy**, which uses medicines to kill cancer cells. Chemotherapy may be used to treat advanced cervical cancer.

# Treatment contd

## Types of surgery for early cervical cancer include:

- Loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP) -- uses electricity to remove abnormal tissue
- Cryotherapy -- freezes abnormal cells
- Laser therapy -- uses light to burn abnormal tissue
- A hysterectomy (surgery to remove the uterus **but** not the ovaries) is not often done for cervical cancer that has not spread. It may be done in women who have repeated LEEP procedures.

# Treatment contd

**Treatment for more advanced cervical cancer may include:**

- Radical hysterectomy, which removes the uterus and much of the surrounding tissues, including lymph nodes and the upper part of the vagina.
- Pelvic exenteration, an extreme type of surgery in which all of the organs of the pelvis, including the bladder and rectum, are removed.
- Radiation may be used to treat cancer that has spread beyond the cervix or cancer that has returned.



# Prevention

## **Cervical cancer can be prevented by doing the following:**

- Get the HPV vaccine. The vaccine prevents against most types of HPV infection that cause cervical cancer. Your health care provider can tell you if the vaccine is right for you.
- Practice safer sex. Using condoms during sex reduces the risk of HPV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- Limit the number of sexual partners you have. Avoid partners who are active in high-risk sex.
- Get regular Pap smears as often as your health care provider recommends. Pap smears can help detect early changes, which can be treated before they turn into cervical cancer.
- If you smoke, quit. Smoking increases your chance of getting cervical cancer.
- Continuous Health education and Counseling



***THANK YOU***