CERVICAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH





Nearly 13,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year, and about 4,200 women die from it this year, according to the **American Cancer** Society.

What is Cervical Cancer?

Develops when cells grow out of control in the uterine cervix. Almost all cases of cervical cancer are caused by human papillomavirus (HPV). When found early during regular screening, treatment is generally effective and many people with this cancer can be cured.

Testing

A Pap test can find cell changes to the cervix caused by HPV. HPV tests find the virus and help healthcare providers know which women are at highest risk for cervical cancer. A Pap/ HPV co-test is recommended for women 30 and over. One HPV test has been approved for use as primary cervical cancer screening for women age 25 and older, followed by a Pap test for women

with certain results.

Treatment

Depends on how advanced the cancer is when it is detected and whether it has spread to nearby lymph nodes and other parts of the body.

Other Risk Factors

Cervical cancer include smoking, having chlamydia (a sexually transmitted infection), giving birth multiple times, oral contraceptive use, being overweight and a family history of cervical cancer.

