



HOW IS CERVICAL CANCER TREATED?

Treatment depends on the stage and may include:

- Surgery: Removing the cancer from the cervix through medical procedures.
- Radiotherapy: Using controlled radiation to destroy cancer cells.
- Chemotherapy: Using medicines to kill or shrink cancer cells.
- A combination of treatments: When more than one method is needed for effective care.

Many women can live long, healthy lives after treatment – especially when cancer is found early.

Can cervical cancer be prevented?

Yes. Cervical cancer can be prevented by:

- HPV vaccination
- Regular cervical cancer screening
- Limiting number of sexual partners
- Using condoms (they reduce risk but do not fully protect)
- Avoiding smoking

WHERE CAN I GET INFORMATION, SCREENING, OR SUPPORT IN GHANA?

You can visit:

- Government hospitals and polyclinics
- Teaching hospitals
- Family Planning Clinics
- District Health Centres
- NGOs and foundations working on women's health
- Ghana Health Service (GHS) facilities

Ask a nurse, midwife, or doctor about cervical cancer screening near you.

What is the most important thing to remember?

Cervical cancer is preventable, detectable, and treatable.
Early action saves lives.



WHAT IS CERVICAL CANCER?

Your body is made of tiny building blocks called cells. Cervical cancer is a disease that starts in the cervix, the lower part of the womb that connects the womb to the vagina. It happens when cells in the cervix change and grow out of control. These changes usually happen slowly, over many years.

Why should I learn about cervical cancer?
Because cervical cancer:

- Is one of the most common cancers among women in Ghana
- Often shows no symptoms in the early stages
- Can be prevented and treated if found early

Knowing about it can save your life or the life of someone you love.



CONTACT



Follow us: @ SebAid Foundation

www.sebaid.org

Partners:



WHAT CAUSES CERVICAL CANCER?

Most cervical cancer is caused by a virus called Human Papillomavirus (HPV). HPV is spread through sexual contact, including skin-to-skin contact in the genital area.

Important to know:

- Having HPV does not mean you will get cancer
- Most HPV infections go away on their own
- Some HPV types can cause changes that lead to cancer over time

Who is at risk of getting cervical cancer?

You may be at higher risk if you:

- Have ever had sexual contact
- Have multiple sexual partners
- Started sexual activity at an early age
- Do not go for regular screening
- Have a weakened immune system
- Smoke cigarettes

Any woman can be at risk even if she feels healthy.

What are the signs and symptoms of cervical cancer?

Early cervical cancer may **not cause any symptoms**.

When symptoms appear, they may include:

- Bleeding between periods or after sex
- Unusual vaginal discharge
- Pain during sex
- Pain in the lower abdomen or back

If you notice **anything unusual**, see a health worker immediately.

How is cervical cancer detected early?

Cervical cancer can be found early through screening tests, such as:

- **Pap Smear:** A simple test where a health worker gently collects a small sample of cells from the cervix and checks to see if there are early changes that could lead to cervical cancer.
- **HPV Testing:** This test checks for the virus that causes most cervical cancers. Finding it early helps health workers take action before cancer starts.
- **Visual Inspection (VIA):** A quick test where a health worker applies a mild vinegar-like solution to the cervix. If there are abnormal cells, they change colour and can be seen immediately.

Screening can detect pre-cancer changes before cancer develops.

HOW IS CERVICAL CANCER DIAGNOSED?

If a screening test shows a problem, a health worker may:

- Examine the cervix more closely
- Take a small sample of tissue (biopsy) for testing

Diagnosis helps doctors decide the best treatment.

What are the stages of cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer has stages, from early to advanced:

- **Early Stages:** Cancer is only in the cervix
- **Later Stages:** Cancer may spread to nearby organs or other parts of the body

The earlier it is found, the easier it is to treat.

