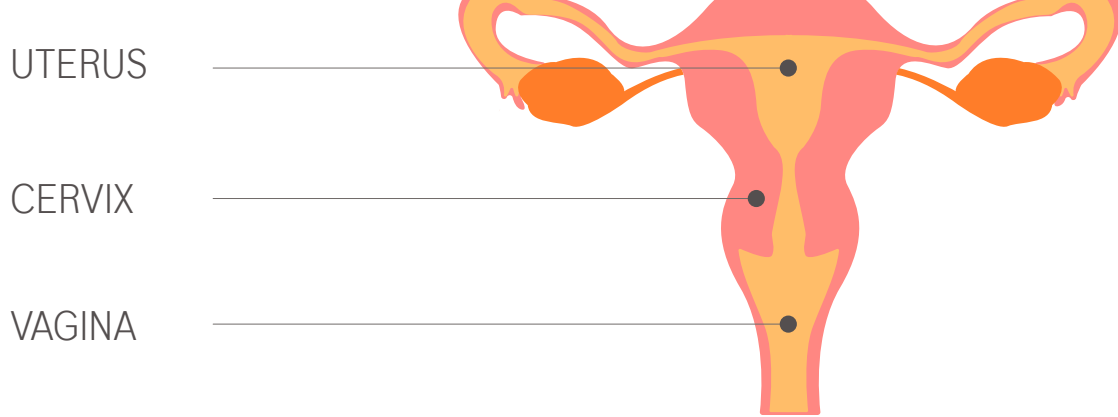


Screening and Prevention Strategies for *Cervical Cancer*

Cervical cancer is a disease that forms in the **cervix**, the lower part of the **uterus**, and occurs when **abnormal cells** grow out of control.^{1,2}



Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is detected in over

99%

of cervical cancers.³

HPV infection is **very common**, with approximately

85%

of people being **exposed** to the virus in their lifetime.⁴

Most HPV infections generally show **no signs of symptoms** and can go away on their own, so people often don't know they've ever had it.⁵

Over **150 types** of HPV have been identified. Some are known to cause health problems such as genital warts, while others are considered high-risk for certain types of cancers.⁶

Only two types, **HPV 16 and 18**, account for nearly

70%

of all cervical cancer cases.⁹

In some women, persistent high-risk HPV infection can **lead to cervical precancer or cancer**, although this generally happens over many years.⁷

Later stages of cervical cancer may show signs of **vaginal bleeding** after intercourse, between periods or after menopause.¹

Cervical cancer is one of the most **preventable** and **treatable** forms of cancer, as long as it is **detected early** and **managed effectively**.⁸

Despite being highly preventable, cervical cancer is one of the most **common cancers** in women worldwide.⁸

Almost

85%

of cervical cancer cases occur in **lower-resource countries**.³

Nearly 9 out of 10

deaths caused by cervical cancer occur in the same lower-resource countries.³

Cervical cancer is most commonly diagnosed in younger women ages **35-44**, with **49** being the average age of diagnosis.⁹

A key goal of cervical screening is to **identify women at risk** for disease.⁸

Routine screening using HPV testing can help identify women at risk to find and treat precancers early, enabling effective prevention of more serious disease.^{1,6}

Unfortunately, many **barriers** to routine screening persist.^{10,11}

Limited **availability** and **access** to screening

Lack of **time** and **awareness** of the importance of routine screening

Low **understanding** about cervical cancer and its **risk factors**

Hesitancy around having a pelvic examination

Concerns around the **cost** of screening or treatment

Previous **worrisome experience** of an abnormal cervical cancer test result and need for repeat testing

Today, new **innovative screening technologies** are rapidly advancing cervical cancer prevention.¹⁰

Primary HPV testing is proven to be more **accurate** and **reliable** than conventional strategies in determining a woman's risk of developing cervical cancer.¹⁰

Advanced biomarker technology enables effective **triage** of women at risk, those with a transforming HPV infection and those who have cervical precancer, and provides powerful **decision-making information** about who requires immediate follow-up care.¹⁰

Future developments in artificial intelligence may bring more **digital pathology solutions** and **patient tracking capability** to enable faster and more precise assessments and less potential loss to follow-up.¹²

At Roche, we are committed to providing **effective** and **simple solutions** that give women the **protection** and care they deserve, and healthcare professionals the **answers** they need to fully support their patients.

The World Health Organization calls on all countries to adopt its global strategy to **eliminate cervical cancer**.⁸ The elimination of global cancer is within reach. The tools and technology exist today to **protect all women** from cervical cancer, no matter where in the world they live.

Now is the time to act.

Let's ensure all women have **access** to routine cervical screening

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⁶Cancer Research UK. Risks and causes. <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/cervical-cancer/risks-causes>. Accessed 22March2022

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⁹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HPV and Cancer, Diagnosis by Age. <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/statistics/age.htm>. Accessed 22March2022

¹⁰Roche. Cervical Cancer Solutions. <https://diagnostics.roche.com/global/en/article-listing/roche-cervical-cancer-solutions.html>. Accessed 22March2022

¹¹Alfaro, K., Maza, M., Cremer, M., Masch, R. and Soler, M., 2021. Removing global barriers to cervical cancer prevention and moving towards elimination.