



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PHILA MA

CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

VISION

To provide effective screening and treatment of pre-malignant lesions to all women age 30 years and older thus reducing morbidity and mortality among women in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

What is Cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer is the most common cancer in women accounting for 18.5% of all cancers. It is the leading cause of cancer deaths in South African women.

Risk factors

A woman is at risk of developing cervical cancer if:

- Multiple sexual partners without a condom
- Having sexual relation before the age of 18
- Smoking
- Weakened immune system
- Vaginal douching
- Chemical exposure

Symptoms of cervical cancer

- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- Heavier long lasting period
- Unusual vaginal bleeding
- Pelvic pain

Abnormal bleeding may occur

- Between menstrual period
- After menopause
- After intercourse
- After a pelvic examination

Treatment

The main types of cervical cancer treatment are:

- Surgery, which include total hysterectomy
- Radiation therapy
- Chemotherapy

Prevention is better than cure

- Cervical cancer is preventable, treatable if detected early

COME AND HAVE A PAP SMEAR

- Pap smear is a simple, quick vaginal examination to check the cervix is healthy
- A special instrument called a speculum is used to hold the vagina opening so that the doctor or nurse can see the cervix
- Some cells are gently wiped off the cervix and sent to a laboratory for testing
- The results of this test will be sent back to your clinic. Remember to go back for your results.

Why should a woman go for a pap smear?

- Pap smears detect abnormal cells that may later become cancer of the cervix

Your health right

- You are entitled to 3 free Pap smears in your life time, one every 10 years starting at 30 years,
- If HIV positive you are entitled to a free pap smear every year
- To be treated with dignity, respect and privacy when going for your pap smear
- Ask the health care provider to explain the procedure to you

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- You must take responsibility for your own health
- You must go back for the results of your pap smear
- You must go for any follow up treatment if advised to do so
- You must give correct contact details to the health service provider so that they can find you if you need further treatment

The Department of Health encourages all young women of child bearing age to visit their health facilities in order to be checked as regularly as possible.

TOLL FREE NUMBER
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Pietermaritzburg, 3201
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