

Living Well / Aging Well

Cervical Cancer Screening



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

What is cervical cancer screening?

Cervical cancer screening uses HPV and Pap tests to find cancer early. HPV tests for the specific virus that can develop cervical cancer. The Pap test (also called Pap smear) looks for cell changes on the cervix which could become cancer and need to be treated.

Source:

https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/basic_info/screening.htm



When should I receive a cervical cancer screening?

Here are the current guidelines for cervical cancer screening.

Women aged 21 to 29 years	Screen for cervical cancer every 3 years with cytology alone.
Women aged 30 to 65 years	Screen for cervical cancer every 3 years with cytology alone, every 5 years with HPV testing alone, or every 5 years with co-testing.
Women younger than 21 years. Women older than 65 years with adequate prior screening. Women who have had a hysterectomy.	Do not screen for cervical cancer.

Source: USPSTF (2018) revision currently under review

<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/cervical-cancer-screening>

What are the signs of cervical cancer?

You may not have any signs during the early stages. Advanced cancer may cause bleeding or discharge that is not normal for you. Since these signs can be caused by other illnesses that are not cancer, please discuss them with your doctor.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/basic_info/symptoms.htm