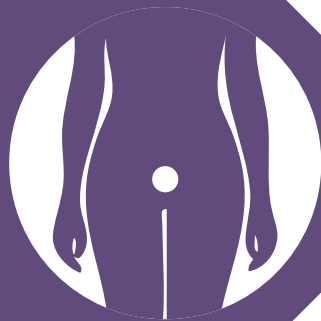


Cervical cancer

Know your symptoms



Cervical cancer can affect women of all ages which is why it's important to attend screening when invited. In most cases, vaginal bleeding is the first noticeable symptom of cervical cancer. Vaginal bleeding is very common and can have a wide range of causes, so it doesn't necessarily mean you have cervical cancer.

Symptoms can include:

- Bleeding after sex
- Bleeding outside of your normal periods
- New bleeding after the menopause
- Pain and discomfort during sex

You should see your GP if you have any of these symptoms



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Screening

The symptoms of cervical cancer aren't always obvious, and it may not cause any symptoms at all until it's reached an advanced stage. This is why it's very important that you attend all of your cervical screening appointments.

All women registered with a GP are invited for cervical screening:

- Aged 25 to 49 – every 3 years
- Aged 50 to 64 – every 5 years
- Over 65 – only women who haven't been screened since age 50 or those who have recently had abnormal tests

Being screened regularly means any abnormal changes in the cells of the cervix can be identified at an early stage and, if necessary, treated to stop cancer developing.

You should be sent a letter confirming when your screening appointment is due. Contact your GP if you think you may be overdue for a screening appointment.



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