

CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

—
YOUR HOW-TO GUIDE



"I didn't think I could get cancer so young. This test saved my life."

Lauren, 29

"At my age, I didn't think I was really at risk anymore, so it was a good job I went for screening."

Hélène, 64



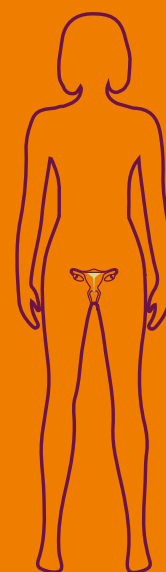
Audio version
available

THE FACTS

What is cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer is caused by a group of viruses known as the “human papillomavirus” (HPV). These viruses are extremely common, and are mainly transmitted through sexual contact, with or without penetration. Using a condom does not offer full protection against becoming infected. An HPV infection can cause lesions on the cervix, which may then become cancerous.

Where is the cervix?



Each year in France:

200,000

abnormal
screening results



including
32,000
precancerous
or cancerous lesions

Over
3,000
NEW CASES
diagnosed

1,100
deaths

Why is screening offered?

Screening allows precancerous lesions on the cervix to be identified as early as possible and to be monitored or treated, thus preventing them from becoming cancerous. 90% of cervical cancers can be prevented through screening. When cancer is detected early, treatment is generally less severe and is less likely to affect fertility.

How does screening work?

Cervical screening involves taking a sample of cells from the cervix. The sample is then examined to look for abnormal cells and the HPV virus.

What are the symptoms?

In its early stages, cervical cancer often develops without causing any symptoms at all.

That is why regular gynaecological check-ups and cervical screening are vital in order to detect cancer early.

Although it does not necessarily mean you have cancer, you should see a doctor in between screenings if you experience unexplained pain or bleeding after sexual intercourse or bleeding between your periods.



Did you know?

A complementary two-pronged approach can help prevent cervical cancer:

HPV vaccination for boys and girls aged 11 to 14.

The vaccine can also be administered as part of a catch-up vaccination schedule up to the age of 19.

Cervical screening for women every 3 years between the ages of 25 and 30, following 2 normal tests carried out at a one-year interval, then every 5 years between the ages of 30 and 65.

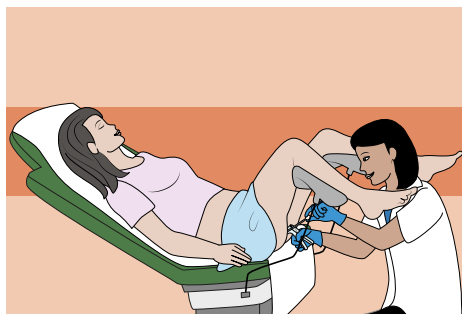
THE STEPS YOU NEED TO TAKE

1 Make an appointment

Make an appointment with:

- a gynaecologist;
- a GP;
- a midwife;
- a healthcare centre, a complementary health centre, a family planning centre or a hospital;
- a medical biology laboratory (you will be asked for your cervical screening invitation letter or a doctor's prescription).

2 Take the test



You will be asked to lie on a bed with your knees bent and your legs apart. The healthcare professional will gently take a sample of cells from your cervix for analysis. It only takes a few minutes and isn't painful, although it may be slightly uncomfortable. Cervical screening can be carried out even if you are pregnant.

3 Receive the results



The sample will be sent to a specialised firm or laboratory for analysis. You will receive your results within a few days:

- If no abnormal cells have been detected and the virus is not present, it is nonetheless important you continue to be screened every 3 years between the ages of 25 and 30, and then every 5 years between the ages of 30 and 65;
- If abnormal cells and/or the virus have been detected, it doesn't necessarily mean you have cancer. Your GP or midwife will let you know which additional tests need to be done and will refer you to a specialised healthcare professional if necessary.

KEY POINTS



The appointment, screening procedure and analysis are all covered by France's national health insurance scheme and your complementary health insurance. If you have received a cervical screening invitation letter, the analysis of your results is fully covered by France's national health insurance scheme and no prepayment is required. If you qualify for certain French benefits (the Complémentaire Santé Solidaire - CSS or l'Aide Médicale d'État - AME), you won't have to pay anything.



Recommended every 3 years for women aged 25 to 30 following 2 normal tests carried out at a one-year interval, then every 5 years between the ages of 30 and 65.



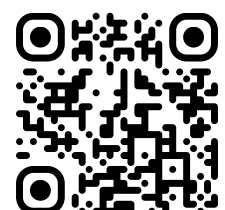
Information regarding the use of your personal data and your rights

1. Who uses my data and why? Within the framework of their public interest mission, France's Regional Cancer Screening Coordination Centres, or CRCDCs (Centres Régionaux de Coordination des Dépistages des Cancers), are responsible for liaising with all individuals targeted by the routine cervical cancer screening programme. As such, the CRCDCs and the relevant healthcare professionals will be sent a copy of your medical examination report and follow-up reports.

2. To whom can my data be forwarded? Your personal non-identifying data (notably your health data) will be sent to both the French National Cancer Institute, the state agency for health and scientific expertise in oncology, and Santé publique France, the French national public health agency. That data will be fed into the Institute's Cancer Data Platform and may subsequently be used for cancer research purposes by the Institute and/or its partners. Santé publique France uses the data to assess the screening programme. Exercising your rights, and notably your right to object, will in no way affect your medical treatment. For more information about the Platform, current research and how to exercise your rights, go to l.cancer.fr/plateforme-donnees*

3. What are my rights regarding my data? In accordance with current regulations, you have the right to access and rectify your data, the right to object to your data being processed, and the right to limit its use. To exercise these rights, please write to the CRCDC in your region. You also have the right to file a complaint with France's Data Protection Agency, the Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés (CNIL), if you feel your rights are not being respected.

For further details on how your personal data is processed and how to exercise your right to object, you can scan this QR code, go to l.cancer.fr/DOCCU-RGPD*, or contact the CRCDC in your region.



*available in French only

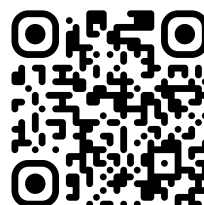
90% OF CERVICAL CANCERS COULD BE PREVENTED.

Over 10 million women are regularly screened for cervical cancer in France. What about you?

For more information,
have a chat with your GP
or midwife or go to

jefaismondepistage.fr

(available in French only)



PROGRAMME NATIONAL
DE DÉPISTAGE
DU CANCER DU COL DE L'UTÉRUS