

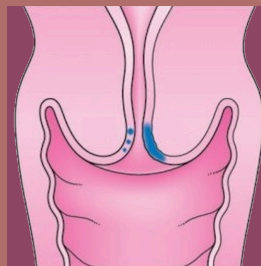
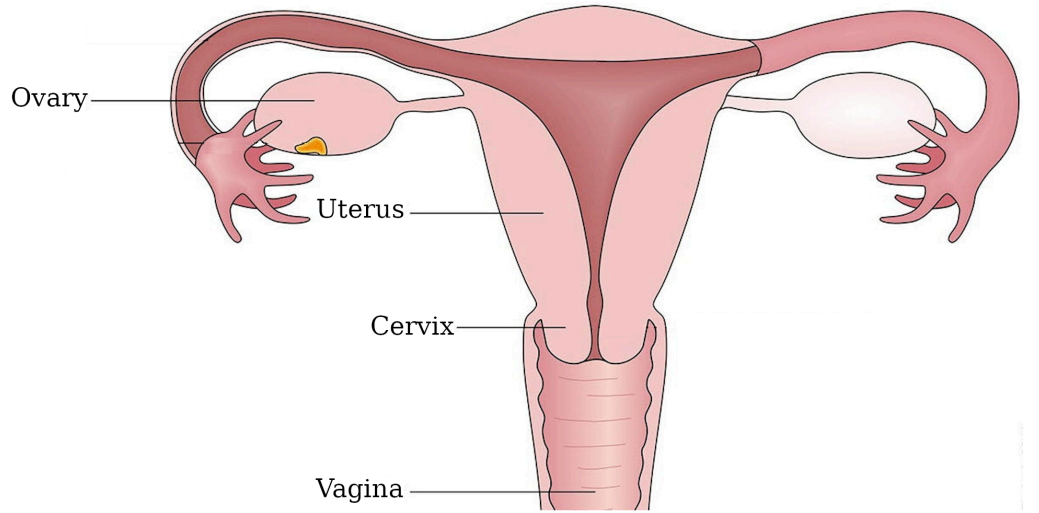
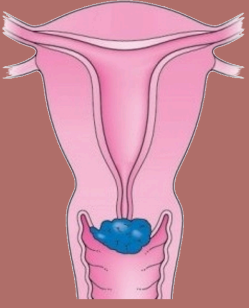


நோர்வே தமிழர் சுகாதார அமைப்பு
Norsk tamilsk helseorganisasjon
Norwegian Tamil Health Organisation

Cervical cancer

HPV-vaccination

Screening program



Livmorhalskreft screening - English

Cervical cancer

1 *What is cervical cancer?*

It is cancer in the cervix. The cervix is the lower part of the uterus that opens into the vagina.

2 *What is the occurrence of cervical cancer?*

In 2020 there were 328 new cases.

3 *What is the cause of cervical cancer?*

In more than 99% of the cases of cervical cancer, the cause is HPV virus.

4 *How is it diagnosed?*

A sample is taken from the cervix.

5 *How is it treated?*

It is treated surgically or with radiation therapy. These can be combined with chemotherapy.

6 *What is the prognosis?*

The prognosis depends on the stage. The earlier the phase of the cancer is detected, the better the prognosis.

HPV vaccination

1 *What effects do the HPV vaccine have? Is there lifelong protection against cervical cancer?*

The HPV vaccine prevents cancer by protecting against HPV infection causing cancer. The protection is lifelong.

2 *When is the HPV vaccine offered?*

The vaccine is offered in 7th grade in Norway.

3 *Are only girls given the vaccine?*

Both boys and girls are offered the vaccine.

4 *How many doses must be taken?*

3 doses must be taken. The second dose is taken 1-2 months after the first dose. The third and final dose is taken 6 months after the first dose.

5 *What kind of vaccines are there?*

There are different types of HPV vaccines. It is recommended to take the vaccine with effect against most subgroups of the HPV virus.

6 *Is it dangerous to take the vaccine? Any side effects?*

No, it is not dangerous to take the vaccine. Possible side effects are local tenderness, irritation, swelling, fever, headache, muscle aches, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain. Life-threatening side effects are rare.

7 *How long does the effect of the vaccine last? Is a booster dose needed?*

The effect is most likely to be lifelong. As per now, a booster dose is not required if all three doses are taken.

8 *Is there an age limit to take the vaccine? Can a 35-year-old woman who has not received the vaccine through the childhood vaccination program receive the vaccine? Does she have to pay for it herself?*

All sexually active women can get cervical cancer. The best is to be vaccinated before sexual debut, and this is the reason for vaccination at 13 years of age. It is recommended that women under the age of 45 get vaccinated. A 35-year-old-woman who has not received the vaccine through the childhood program can get the vaccine. She then must pay for it herself.

The screening program

1 *What is the purpose of the screening program?*

The purpose of the program is to detect cell changes (the precursor to cancer) and cancerous changes in the cervix. It is detected to be able to provide curative treatment early. The test must be taken regularly in accordance with the regulations.

2 *How does the screening program work? When do you get summoned?*

The Cancer Registry (Kreftregisteret) will send out letters to all women when they have turned 25 years old. The woman must contact her general practitioner (GP) or gynecologist herself to have the cell sample performed.

3 *How is the cell sample for the cervix performed? Is it dangerous?*

The cell sample is taken at a gynecological examination. It can be uncomfortable for the woman, but the cell sample is not dangerous to take.

4 *How often should you take the test?*

At the age of 25-34, a cell sample will be taken every 3 years if there is a negative answer.

At the age of 35, the cell sample will be taken every 5 years if there is a negative answer.

5 *What happens when you get a negative test result? How often should you take the test?*

In the event of a negative test result, a new cell sample will be taken either every 3 or 5 years.

6 *What happens when you get a positive test result?*

Depending on the severity, the doctor will either check with repeated tests or refer you to the hospital for further examination and treatment.

7 *If you have taken the test, do you HAVE to wait 3 years before you can take a new one?*

In case of symptoms such as bleeding disorders, the cell sample can be taken earlier than 3 years.

8 *What are the indications for taking a cell sample outside the screening program?*

The cell sample can be taken if you experience bleeding disorders earlier than 25 years of age, at early sexual onset, abundant vaginal discharge.

9 *What happens if cell changes have been detected?*

If you have been diagnosed with cell changes, you will undergo a surgical treatment called conization. The part of the cervix that consists of the precursor to cancer is removed. At the end of the treatment, you will be followed up with checks in consultation with the doctor.

10 *Do you need to take more cell samples after conization? Or can you stop when the diseased part of the cervix has been removed?*

After conization, regular cervical samples should be taken as recommended by your doctor. Even if the diseased part has been removed, there will still be a risk of new cell changes.