

Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer is a common disease among women. In Hong Kong, more than 400 women are diagnosed every year. Although cervical cancer affects women over age 50, some statistics showed that the occurrence of the disease is gradually increasing among younger female.

The major cause of cervical cancer is the infection of human papillomavirus (HPV) through sexual intercourse. Other risk factors of cervical cancer include multiple sexual partners, age over 50, getting sexually transmitted diseases, smoking and estrogen.

Cervical cancer usually shows no signs or symptoms in early stage until the cancer become invasive. The most common symptoms include bleeding during sexual intercourse, abnormal vaginal bleeding and discharge. However, if the tumor has been spread to the adjacent normal tissues near pelvic plexus, some other symptoms will be developed, including sciatica, lower abdominal pain and hydronephrosis resulting from the blockage of ureter.

To find the best way for treatment, the size of the tumor, as well as the age and health status of the patient should be considered. The main approaches of cervical cancer treatment are surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy.

For prevention, early detection of cervical cancer is essential for women who are the age of 25 or above and have sexual intercourse. Those women should take regular check-ups, which named Pap Smear test. With regular screening, the risk of having cervical cancer can be significantly reduced as much as 94%.