



Cervical Cancer

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Cervical cancer develops in the lining of the cervix, the lower part of the uterus that joins the vagina. It usually develops over time with gradual changes of cervical epithelial cells to become precancerous and then an invasive cancer.

Worldwide, cervical cancer is recognized as the second most common cancer in women. Cervical cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer among females in Hong Kong. Around 450 new cervical cancers are diagnosed each year in Hong Kong. Treatment of cervical cancer, which includes a combination of surgery, radiotherapy or chemotherapy, depends on the extent of the disease. The mortality and morbidity of cervical cancer is thus mainly determined by the staging of the disease at diagnosis.

Prevention of Cervical Cancer

Cervical cytology (Pap smear) is the most effective method to screen for cervical cancer and its precursor. It involves the taking of cells from the transformation zone of the cervix using a spatula or brush. By detecting the pre-invasive lesion of the cervix, further progression to invasive cancer can be prevented (Primary Prevention). Detection of early invasive cancer also helps to halt or slow the progression of cervical cancer or its sequelae (Secondary Prevention).

The success of cervical cytology screening is attributed to the accessibility of the uterine cervix to cytology sampling, slow progress of the precancerous lesion in general, effectiveness of the test and availability of effective treatment for cervical precancerous lesion or early invasive cancers.

The most important factor in determining the effectiveness of cervical cancer screening is the willingness of a woman to take the crucial step of having a cervical cytology examination performed. Women are recommended to start regular cervical cytology screening at 25 or when they become sexually active until they are 65.

The Cervical Cytology Screening Laboratory

The Cervical Cytology Screening Laboratory, Department of Pathology, The University of Hong Kong is one of the leading laboratories in the region examining cervical cytology samples and is responsible for reporting most of the cervical cytology samples from the Family Planning Association, a major contributor to cervical cancer screening in Hong Kong.



The Laboratory is striving for continuous improvement in the quality of cervical cytology reporting by upgrading (1) the quality of the cytology samples; (2) quality control in reporting the cervical cytology and (3) organization of cervical cytology laboratory.

Since March 2000, the laboratory has adopted the cutting-edge liquid based cytology preparation technique, ThinPrep Pap Test, which is approved by the Food and Drug Administration, U.S.A., to improve the quality of cytology preparation and reporting. The Laboratory, has been accredited “with excellence” by the American College of Pathologists (CAP) since September 2001. It is the first cytology laboratory in Hong Kong to be accredited by CAP. The accreditation ensures that there is adequate personnel of good standard in the laboratory and good quality control measures are implemented.

[Critical Step To Prevent Cervical Cancer](#)

In order to arouse public awareness on cervical cancer and to encourage women in Hong Kong to go for their Pap smear, the Cervical Cytology Screening Laboratory, Department of Pathology, The University of Hong Kong, together with The Family Planning Association (FPA) are delighted to jointly offer **100 FREE Pap Tests** to female readers of the Metro Daily on a first-come-first-served basis. The Pap Tests will be performed in the Mobile Clinics of FPA. Those who are interested to join the free testing please call the hotline **(2919-7724)** and leave (1) your name and (2) contact no (both day & night). The first 100 participants will be contacted by phone.