

## Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer is common among women. Those who have it suffer a lot not from the disease as well as from the treatment.

Cervical cancer is caused by high-risk human papillomaviruses (HPVs), a virus that infects a person's skin and mucous membrane. It is usually transmitted during sex and can cause warts or some types of cancer to develop. Most people's immune system can fight off the virus. But stubborn HPVs, may cause abnormal changes in the cervical epithelial cells, known as Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia (CIN).

CIN can be classified into CIN I, CIN II and CIN III. Usually, no treatment is required for CIN I because more than 60 per cent of the lesions regress spontaneously. But for CIN II and CIN III, because of the chances of their progression to cervical cancer, treatment is usually recommended in the form of large loop excision of the transformation zone (LLETZ) or cone biopsy. Women with CIN usually do not experience any symptoms. Cervical Smear is the way to detect CIN.

LLETZ is the most common procedure for dealing with CIN. More than 80 per cent of the procedure can be done under local anaesthesia. A study shows that LLETZ speeds up preterm delivery slightly and causes babies to be born underweight, but it does increase prenatal mortality. Nevertheless lots of women worry about the possible effect of LLETZ on future pregnancies. The rate of recurrence of CIN after treatment is about 10 per cent. Women who had undergone LLETZ are advised to have regular cervical smears to find out whether CIN had returned.

If left untreated, CIN may develop into cancer. A sign of this is abnormal vaginal bleeding. Treatment options for cervical cancer include surgery, radiotherapy and, or chemotherapy. The chances of curing cervical cancer are high if treated early.