CERVICAL cancer

INTRODUCTION

- The cervix is located at the lower end of the uterus
- Cervical cancer is when the cells in the cervix grow out of control, forming a tumour
- 2ND Cervical cancer is the 2nd most common cancer for women in Ghana
- During the early stages of cervical cancer, usually there are no symptoms

RISK FACTORS

- 30-45 — Age- women aged 30-45 are at highest risk
- Started having sex at an early age
- Smoking may increase the risk of getting cancer
- 30-49 — Viruses
  E.g Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) & Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV-1)

PREVENTION

- HPV vaccination
- Use condom
- Regular pap smears
- Eat coloured fruits & vegetables
- Regular physical activity

SYMPTOMS

- Vaginal bleeding between periods
- Vaginal bleeding after sexual intercourse
- Vaginal bleeding after menopause
- Smelly vaginal discharge
- Pain during sexual intercourse
- Menstrual bleeding that is longer or painful than usual
- Persistent pelvic or back pain.

DIAGNOSIS

CERVICAL cancer

VISUAL INSPECTION
using a speculum, doctor checks woman's cervix for any unusual changes.

PAP SMEAR
cells are brushed from the cervix and tested in the laboratory for any abnormalities.

COLPOSCOPY
this is simply using a piece of magnifying equipment to check for abnormal cells/tissue.

BIOPSY
A small piece or several layers of cervical tissue is pinched off and analyzed.

ELECTRICAL WIRE LOOP
Under general anaesthesia, a thin, low-voltage electrical wire is used for the removal of a small amount of tissue.

ENDOCERVICAL CURETTAGE
a small amount of cervical tissue is scraped off using spoon-shaped instrument.

CT,MRI,X-RAYS & PET IMAGES
are used to visualize if the cancer has spread from the cervix to other cells.

STAGING

Staging can be determined through imaging tests or examination of nearby organs

- Stage I — Cancer only present in the cervix
- Stage II — Cancer present in the cervix & upper portion of vagina
- Stage III — Cancer is present in the cervix, upper and lower portion of vagina and (internal) pelvic wall
- Stage IV — Cancer has spread to other nearby organs, which is known as metastasis

TREATMENT

CERVICAL cancer

CHEMOTHERAPY	Drugs are either ingested or injected to kill the cancer
BRACHYTHERAPY	Placing radioactive sources inside body to treat cancer
RADIOTHERAPY	High energy radiation from a machine outside the body is used to shrink cancer cells
TARGETED THERAPY	Using drugs to target molecules involved in cancer growth
IMMUNOTHERAPY	Targeting body's immune cells to fight cancer
SURGERY	Whole or part of the uterus may be removed in a process known as hysterectomy

SURVIVAL & POST-TREATMENT

- schedule follow up appointments and regular check-ups.
- Eating healthy
- Exercise daily
- Good quality sleep each night.
- Be aware of the long-term effects of cancer and the treatment

CANCER CENTRE