

Mayo Clinic Minute

Cervical Cancer: Prevention & Screening

Video	Audio
Reporter	Cervical cancer used to be one of the top causes of cancer for women in the United States. But no longer.
Christopher DeStephano, M.D. Gynecologic Surgeon Mayo Clinic	Cervical cancer is a preventable cancer. It's preventable through screening tests and then also vaccines.
Reporter	Dr. DeStaphano says that the PAP smear is the typical test used to identify abnormal cells in the cervix.
Christopher DeStephano, M.D.	The screening interval is starting at 21 years of age, every three years.
Reporter	For women over 30, doctors typically add a test to look for human papilloma virus – also known as HPV.
Christopher DeStephano, M.D.	90 percent of cervical cancers are the result of human papilloma virus.
Reporter	Nearly 80 million people have HPV and Dr. DeStephano says there are more than 40 strains that can cause cancer.
Christopher DeStephano, M.D.	That's why the HPC vaccine is such an important prevention – prevention measure.
Reporter	But seek guidance from your health care provider since screening guidelines change.
Reporter	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams.