

Mayo Clinic Minute: Dangers of late cervical cancer diagnosis in women of color

Video	Audio
OLIVIA CARDENAS-TROWERS, M.D. OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY Mayo Clinic	<p>Access to health care and establishing trust is essential to help reduce cervical cancer mortality.</p> <p>Dr. Olivia Cardenas-Trowers, a Mayo Clinic urogynecologist, says factors like limited access to transportation, education and others have created barriers to health care, particularly in communities of color.</p>
	<p>"Removing barriers so that these women can have access is critical, then, when they are in the system being with providers they can trust, they can communicate if they have problems or need access to things like Pap smears or other screening measures."</p>
	<p>There is a greater chance at a cure when cervical cancer is detected early, when there may not be any noticeable symptoms — making regular screenings that much more important.</p>
	<p>"It's really in later-stage cervical cancer where you can see things like abnormal vaginal bleeding, pain — in general or with intercourse."</p>
	<p>The biggest risk factor for developing cervical cancer — HPV infection — can be prevented vaccination.</p>
	<p>"Establish care with a primary care provider, undergo the recommended screening. Get the HPV vaccine for yourself if you're eligible and also for your children."</p>
	<p>For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.</p>