

Mayo Clinic Minute: Screening for cervical cancer

Video	Audio
OLIVIA CARDENAS-TROWERS, M.D. OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY Mayo Clinic	" Cervical cancer is diagnosed with tissue sampling, so like with a biopsy, but abnormal cells can be picked up with a screening exam, like a Pap smear ."
	Screenings are recommended to start at 21 years old, but may start earlier depending on health or risk. Then, depending on age and the type of test, screenings are generally performed every three to five years.
	"Early cervical cancer, there aren't really many signs or symptoms. And so, screening plays a very important role and be being able to pick it up early and therefore have treatment and better outcomes."
	If cervical cancer progresses to a later stage, symptoms may include abnormal vaginal bleeding, bleeding after menopause, and pain, in general or with intercourse. An HPV infection increases the risk for developing cervical cancer and can be prevented with vaccination .
	"There is a vaccine out there that can be given as early as nine years old and up to 45 years old. (That) is very important to know, not only for women, but actually for men."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.