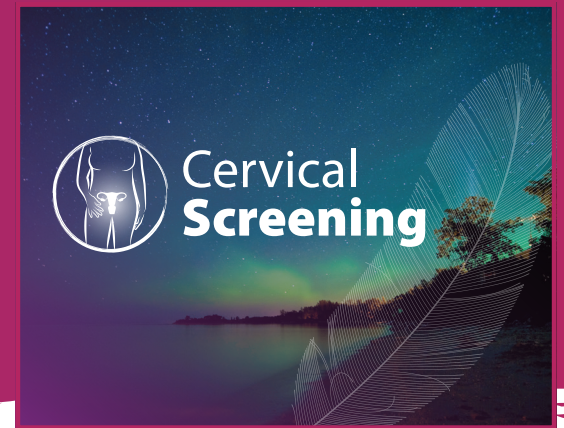




# Cervical Screening



# Cervical Screening



## Screening

Women who have ever had any sexual skin-to-skin contact and are 21 years or older, should have a Pap test every 3 years until age 70.

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Women can stop screening at the age of 70 if they have had 3 or more normal Pap tests in the past 10 years.

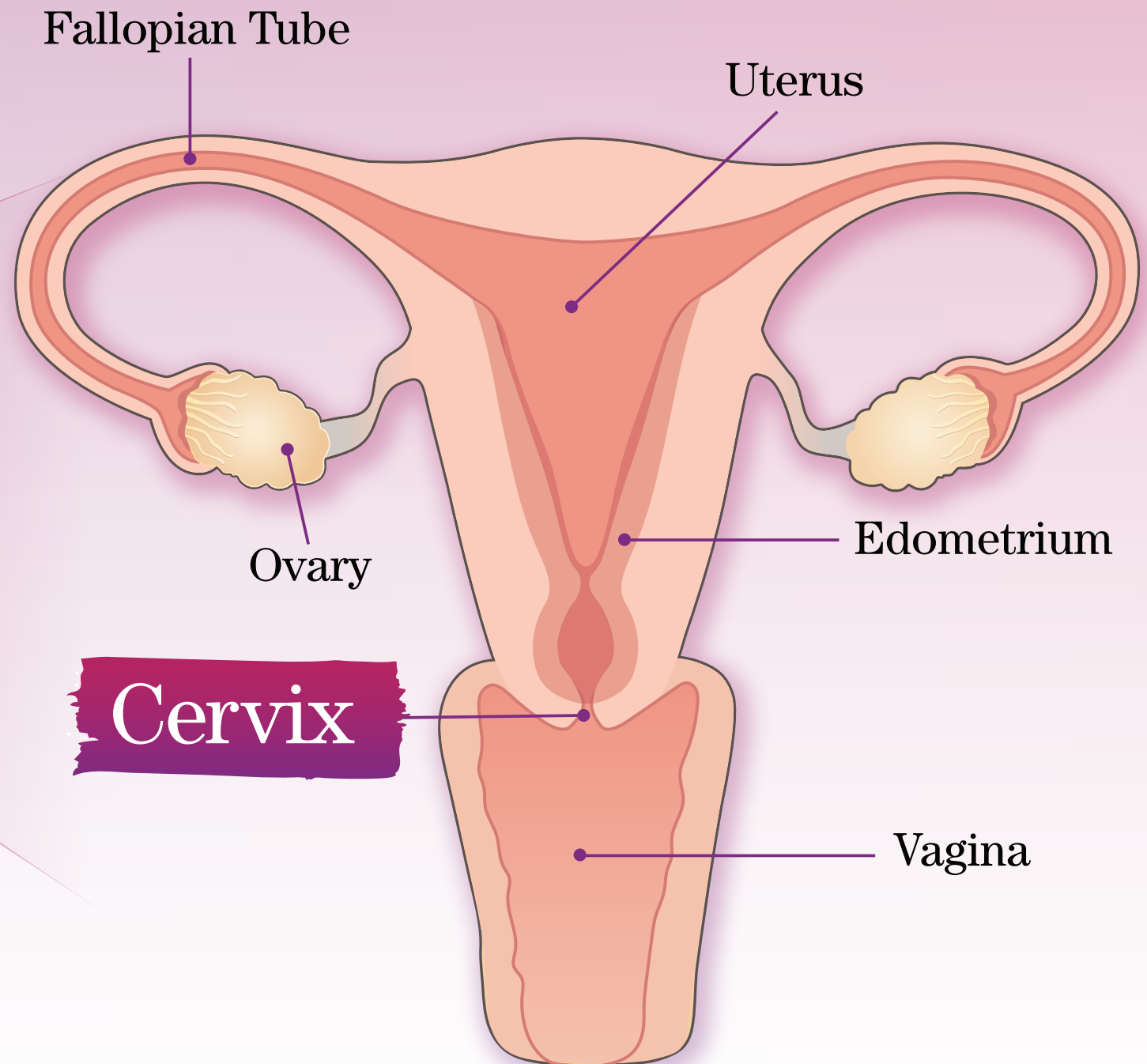
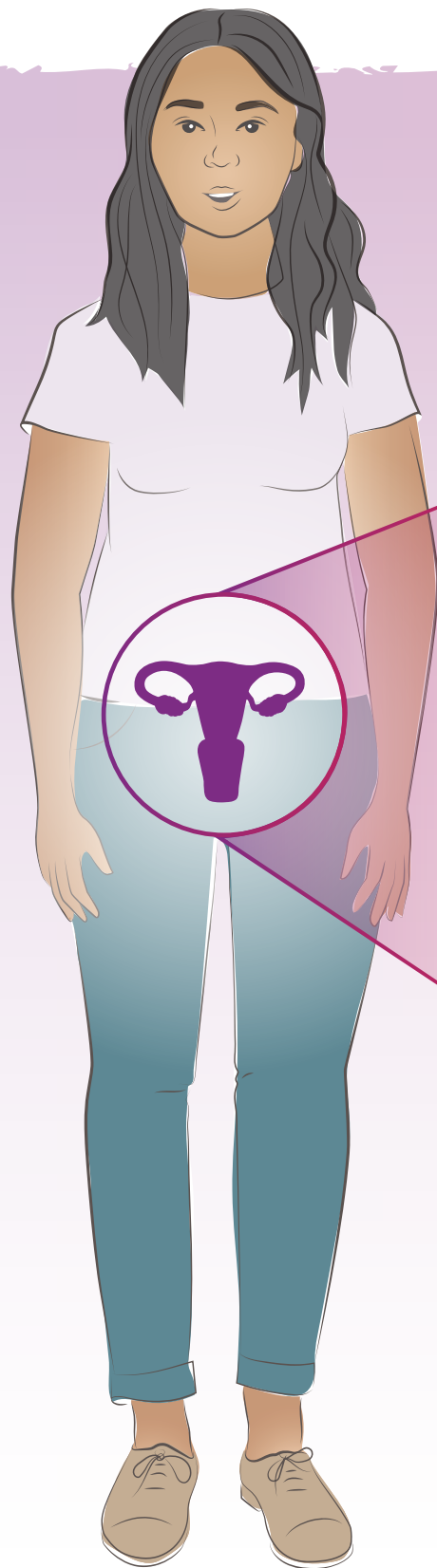
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The Ontario Cervical Screening Program sends out reminder letters to eligible women every 3 years.

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# Where is the Cervix?



Fallopian Tube

Uterus

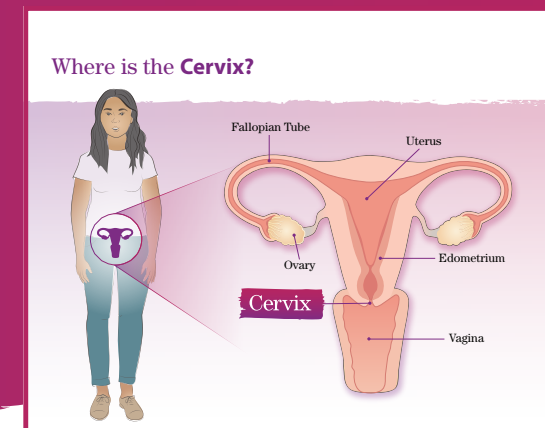
Ovary

Edometrium

Cervix

Vagina

# Where is the Cervix?



The cervix is between the uterus and vagina.

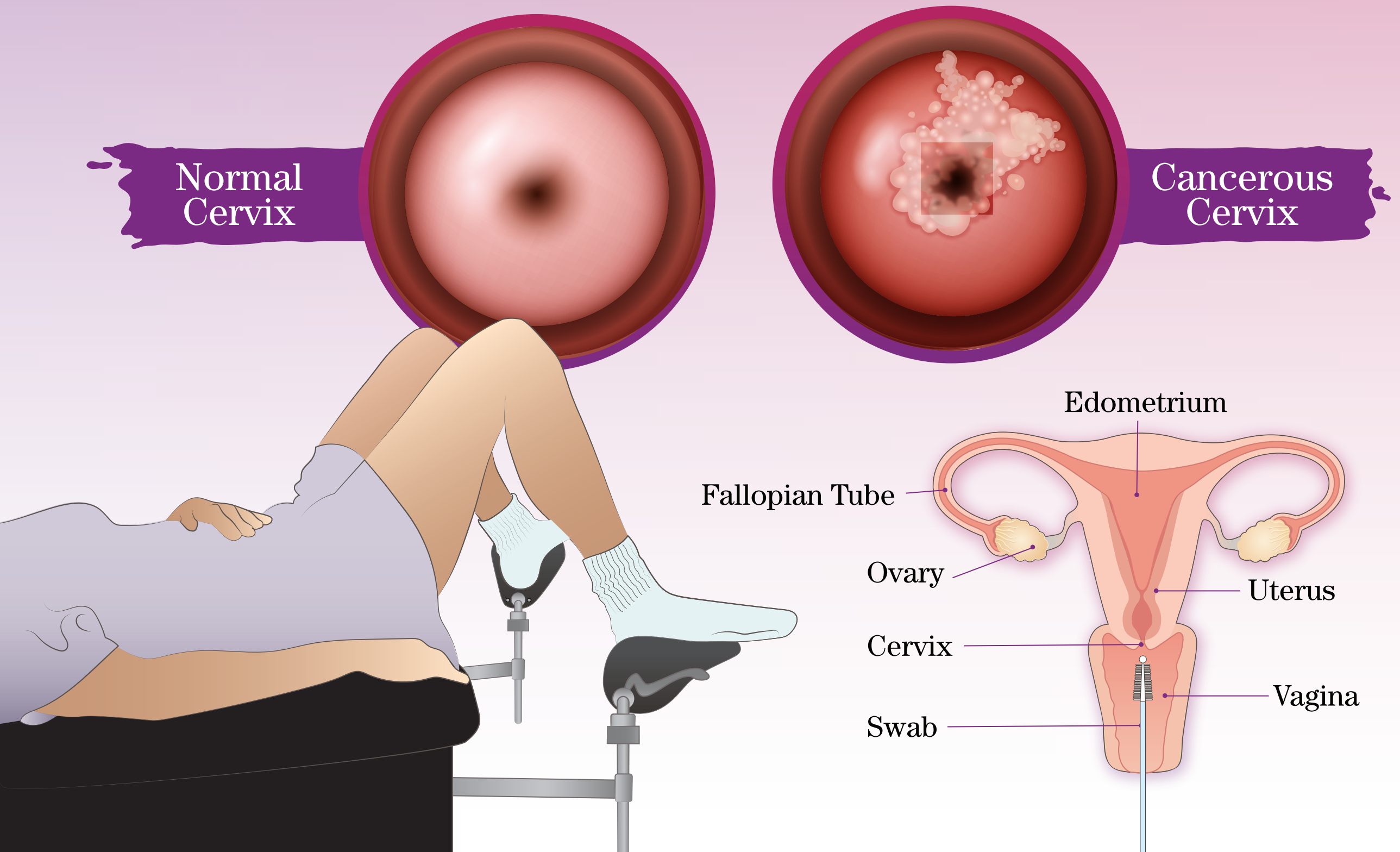
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The uterus is where babies are carried during pregnancy.

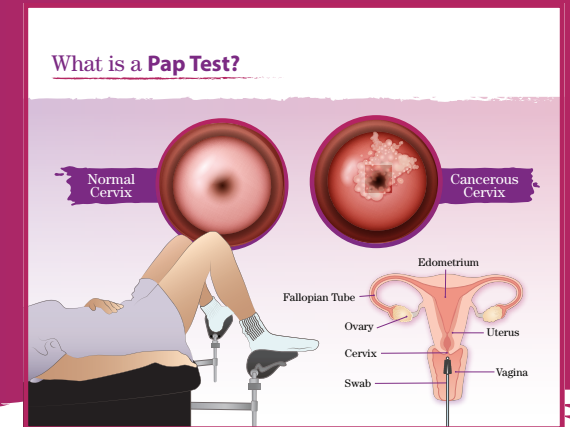
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# What is a Pap Test?



# What is a Pap Test?



## About the Test

A Pap test detects changes in the cells of the cervix.

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An instrument called a speculum is gently inserted into the vagina, so your cervix can be seen.

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A swab is inserted into the cervix to take a sample of the cells.

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The sample is sent to a lab where it is examined under a microscope.

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There may be some discomfort during the Pap test, but not for long.

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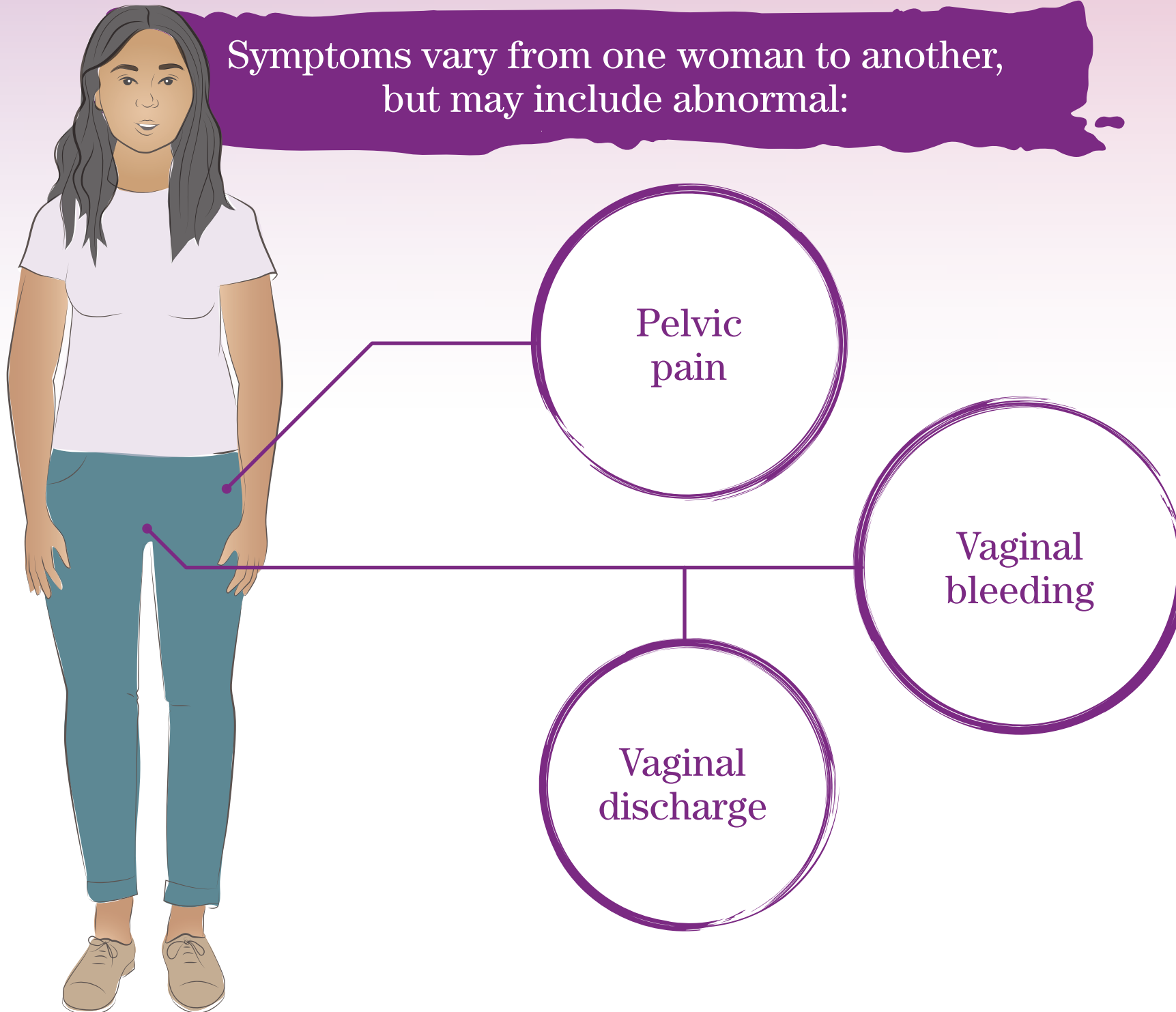
With Pap tests, cervical changes that could lead to cancer can be found and treated easily and successfully. If cancer develops, especially if it has spread to other parts of your body, it may be harder to treat.

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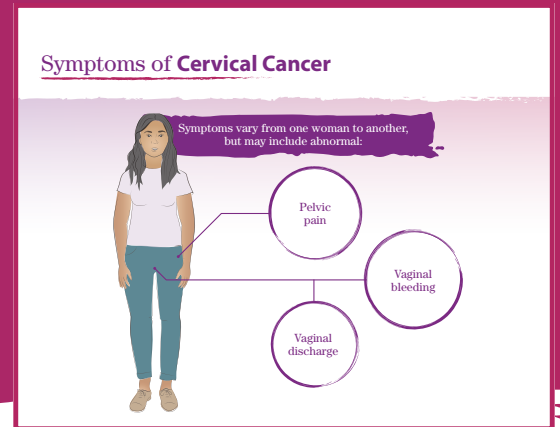


# Symptoms of Cervical Cancer

Symptoms vary from one woman to another, but may include abnormal:



# Symptoms of Cervical Cancer



## Symptoms

Bleeding between periods or after sex.

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Persistent pelvic pain at rest or during sex.

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Change in vaginal discharge; change in smell; it could be watery or red.

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Vaginal bleeding for long periods of time; greater than 2 weeks should be looked at.

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When you are menopausal, which means when your monthly periods stop, if you have any vaginal bleeding you should see your doctor or nurse.

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## Stages

Stage 1

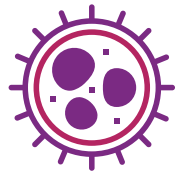
Stage 2

Stage 3

Stage 4



# Facts About HPV



Sometimes infection with HPV, whether or not it is a cancer-causing type of HPV, **causes cells on the cervix to become abnormal.**



## HPV is very common

About 4 out of every 5 people – males and females – who have had sex have had an HPV infection at some point in their lives.

**Usually there are no symptoms and people do not know they have HPV.** This makes it hard to know when and how you were exposed to the virus.



HPV infections and these early cell changes **usually cause no symptoms and would go undetected without a Pap test.**

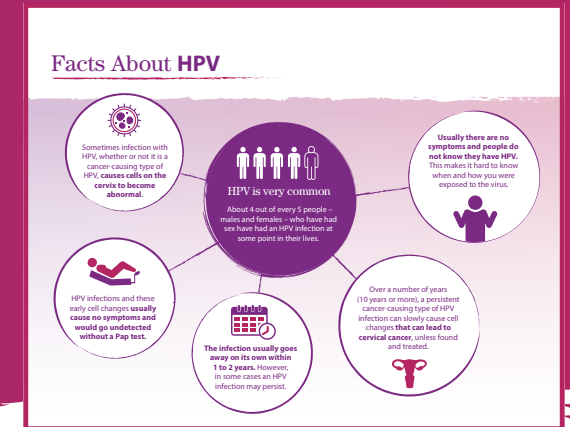


**The infection usually goes away on its own within 1 to 2 years.** However, in some cases an HPV infection may persist.

Over a number of years (10 years or more), a persistent cancer-causing type of HPV infection can slowly cause cell changes **that can lead to cervical cancer**, unless found and treated.



# HPV (Human Papillomavirus)



Cervical cancer is caused by certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV). Not all types of HPV cause cancer.

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HPV is easily spread by intimate skin-to-skin contact, usually during sex.

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Most women can fight the infection without treatment.

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Sometimes, HPV infection causes the cells in the cervix to change into cancer over time.

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Screening is designed to identify early changes that can be treated and prevent cancer.

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Most women with cancer-causing HPV do not develop cancer.

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Men can have HPV as well. Many men are carriers of HPV and may show no signs.

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The most common sign that a man has HPV is genital warts.

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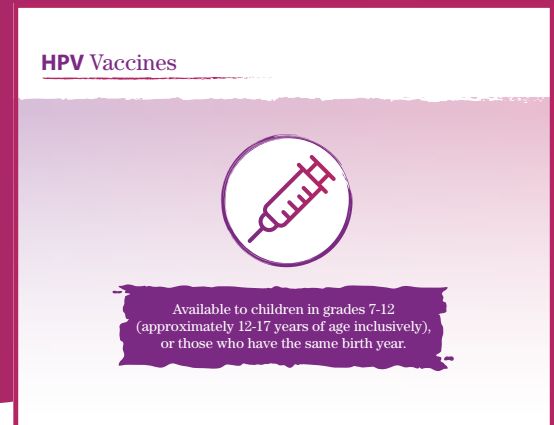
# HPV Vaccines

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Available to children in grades 7-12  
(approximately 12-17 years of age inclusively),  
or those who have the same birth year.

# HPV Vaccines



## Vaccine Availability

HPV vaccines are available to all grade 7 students, as part of the publicly funded immunization program.



The program allows for catch up of any missed doses until the end of August of the individual's grade 12 year.

Individuals not attending school who have the same birth year as those attending grade 7-12 (approximately 12-17 years of age inclusively) are also eligible for HPV vaccine.

There are 2 types of HPV vaccines available:

**Gardasil**

**Cervarix**