



Cervical Cancer

The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2007, about 11,150 cases of invasive cervical cancer will be diagnosed in the United States.

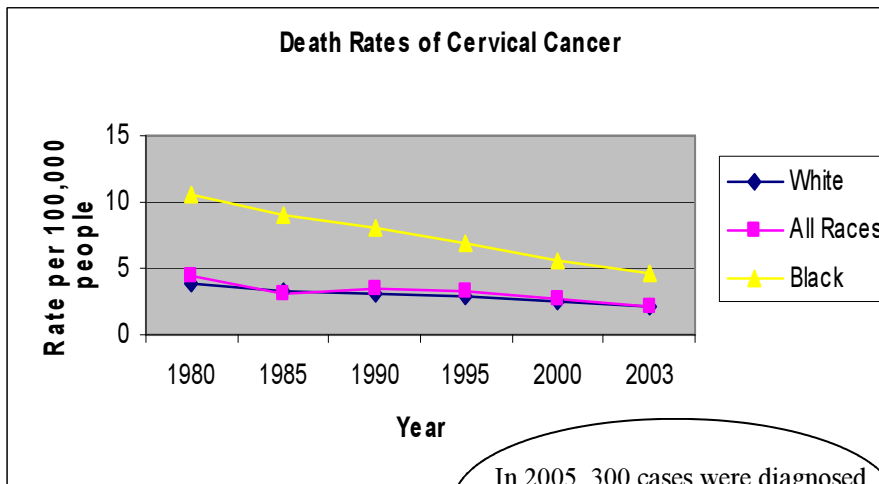
this change is the increased use of the Pap test. This screening procedure can find changes in the cervix (the lower part of the uterus – or womb) BEFORE cancer develops.

It can also find early cancer in its most curable stage. The death rate from cervical cancer continues to decline by nearly 4% per year.

About 3,670 women will die from cervical cancer in the United States this year.

Why then do we often hear the statement: “Nobody should ever die from cervical cancer”?

Cervical cancer was once one of the most common causes of cancer death for American women. The cervical cancer death rate declined by 74% between 1955 and 1992. The main reason for



In 2005, 300 cases were diagnosed and 100 women died of cervical cancer in Michigan.

Cervical Cancer Q and A

Q: My mom and sister had cervical cancer– am I at a higher risk for getting it?

A: No. Your risk is only affected by your exposure to HPV.

Q: What is HPV?

A: HPV stands for Human Papillomavirus. HPV is spread through sex with someone who has it.

Q: Does that mean that HPV is a sexually transmitted disease?

A: Yes, you can call it a sexually transmitted disease. The use of a

condom could decrease the risk of infection, but it may not totally prevent transmission.

Q: How can I know if I have the virus?

A: The only way to know is to have routine Pap tests. The Pap test looks for evidence that your cervix has been “attacked” by the virus and is changing the cells on your cervix. This screening procedure can find changes in the cervix BEFORE cancer develops.

Q: Does it mean that I have Cancer if the Pap test is abnormal?

A: No. It only tells that if you may develop cancer of the cervix if the virus doesn’t go away. Sometimes you need a Colposcopy (a more thorough exam of the cervix to see abnormal cells) from a doctor and sometimes you need to have the diseased parts of your cervix removed by a doctor.

Q: Does the virus go away?

A: As far as we know the virus can be overcome by your own immune system and your Pap test

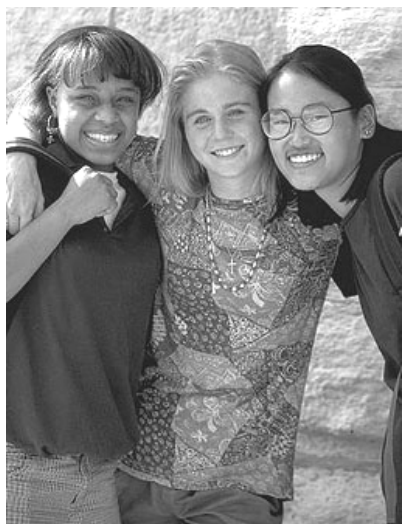
can become normal. The only way to make the virus go away is to live a healthy life style. This means: No smoking, adequate sleep, getting enough vitamins in your diet like fruits and vegetables or take a vitamin supplement, and decrease stress in your life if possible.

“Nobody should ever die from cervical cancer.”

Q: Should I be afraid of getting cancer if I am told I have HPV.

A: You should know that there are many types of HPV. Some types causes genital warts and other types can cause cancer of the cervix. Regularly scheduled Pap tests and following your health provider’s advice can prevent cervical cancer.

Limit the amount of sexual partners that you get involved with and get regular pap tests to keep healthy!



Berrien County Health

Department:
Preventing Disease,
Prolonging Life and
Protecting the
Health of the
Community.



October is Cancer Prevention Month

October is Cancer Prevention month, so the Health Department will provide information about Breast Cancer, Cervical Cancer, Prevention/Screening and WISEWOMAN, as well as information about Lead Poisoning prevention, and Influenza and Pneumonia prevention. For more information about any of these topics, please call the health department at 926-7121.

PAP TESTS: Contact the Berrien County Health Department for information on how to get a pap test to prevent cervical cancer. You may be eligible for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP). BCCCP will provide free mammograms and pap test for eligible women. For more information, call:

926-7121



Vaccine to prevent HPV

The vaccine is called GARDASIL. It is a vaccine that protects against 70% of the sub-types of HPV that cause cervical cancer and 90% of the subtypes that cause genital warts. The vaccine has been released for girls 9-26 years of age. You can check with your doctor or call the health department for information at 926-7121.

Women should get vaccinated before they are sexually active for the most protection. If a women already has HPV, the vaccine will provide protection only for the sub-types that the patient is not currently infected with.

The Berrien County Health Department has four locations to serve you:

Benton Harbor

769 Pipestone
P.O. Box 706
926-7121

M-139 Office
2106 S. M-139
927-5623

Niles

1205 N. Front St.
684-2800

Three Oaks

21 N. Elm
756-2008

Or visit us on the web at www.bchdmi.org

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