

January, 2014 • Facts

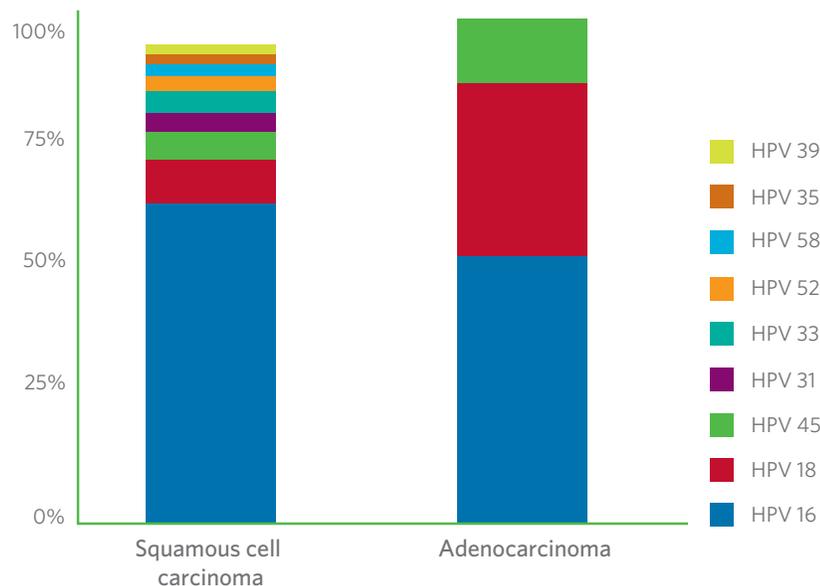
# Cervical Cancer

## What are the types of cervical cancer?

There are 3 types of cervical cancer. Squamous cell cervical cancers are the most common. Today, they are 2-3 times more common than the cervical adenocarcinoma type.<sup>1</sup> The least common type is called adenosquamous cervical cancer. It is a mixture of the other 2 types.

## Human papilloma virus (HPV) and cervical cancer

HPV is a virus. Certain types of HPV can cause cervical cancer. HPV 16, 18, and 45 are the types most commonly seen in cervical cancer.<sup>2</sup> These 3 types cause 94% of adenocarcinomas and 75% of squamous cell cancers.<sup>2</sup> So testing for these HPV types could be helpful when screening for cervical cancer.



Genotypes contributing <2% not shown.  
From: *Lancet Oncol.* 2010;11:1048-1056.<sup>2</sup>



## Following up with HPV genotyping

Pap and HPV testing provide important information about a patient's risk for cervical cancer. Women over 30 who have a negative Pap test but a positive HPV test have two choices per the guidelines.<sup>3</sup> One choice is to repeat the Pap and HPV tests in a year. The other choice is to do an HPV genotype test now. This test tells you if one of the highest risk HPV genotypes is present. If so, a colposcopy is advised.<sup>3</sup>

## Facts

### Screening for cervical cancer

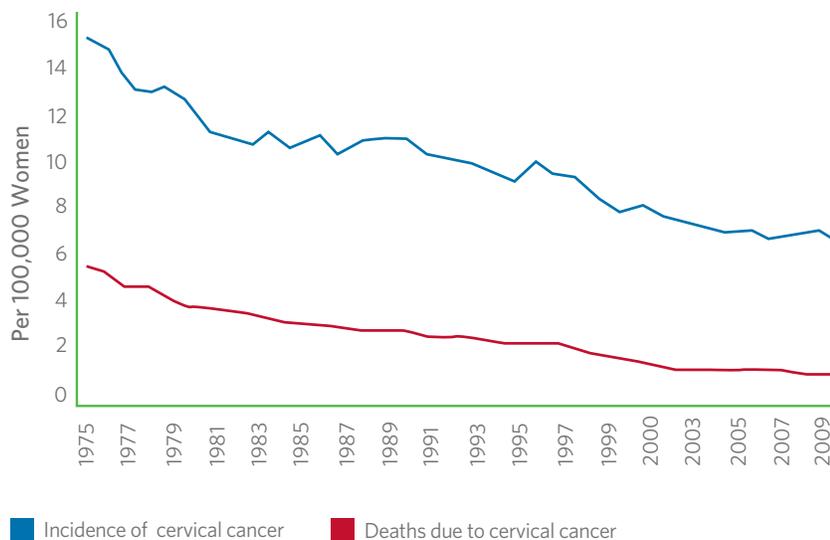
In the past, doctors used only a Pap test (also called cytology) for cervical cancer screening. The Pap test looks at cervical cells for changes that might lead to cancer. Today, doctors also use HPV testing when screening some patients.

Age (years)	Recommended Screening <sup>3</sup>
<21	No screening
21 to 29	Pap test every 3 years
30 to 65	Pap test + HPV every 5 years (preferred) OR Pap test every 3 years
>65	No screening (if low cancer risk)

Women who have been vaccinated for HPV should be screened the same way as women who haven't had the vaccine. This is because the vaccine doesn't protect against all types of HPV.

### Rates of cervical cancer

The incidence of cervical cancer has gone down greatly over the last 30 years. The number of deaths due to cervical cancer has also gone down.<sup>4</sup> Screening has decreased the number of women who get squamous cell cervical cancer. But it hasn't decreased the number of women who get cervical adenocarcinomas. This might be because this type of cervical cancer is harder to detect using the Pap test.<sup>5</sup>



Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.  
From: <http://www.seer.cancer.gov/faststats.4>

### References

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2. de Sanjose S, Quint WG, Alemany L, et al. Human papillomavirus genotype attribution in invasive cervical cancer: a retrospective cross-sectional worldwide study. *Lancet Oncol.* 2010;11(11):1048-1056.
3. Saslow D, Solomon D, Lawson HW, et al. American Cancer Society, American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology, and American Society for Clinical Pathology screening guidelines for the prevention and early detection of cervical cancer. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2012;62(3): 147-172.
4. National Cancer Institute. Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program. Age-Adjusted SEER Incidence Rates by Cancer Site. <http://www.seer.cancer.gov/faststats>. Accessed December 23, 2013.
5. Zappa M, Visioli CB, Ciatto S, et al. Lower protection of cytological screening for adenocarcinomas and shorter protection for younger women: the results of a case-control study in Florence. *Br J Cancer.* 2004;90(9):1784-1786.